

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Upsetting start:
No. 4 UNC falls
to Santa Clara**

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Tar Heels' Sean May, left, and David Noel

Volume 63, No. 218 © EPSS 2004 G

**U.S. turning over
hotels confiscated
in WWII to Germany**

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**Some keys
to cooking
tasty turkey**

Scene magazine

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2004

\$1.00

A soft touch against terror

Troops in Horn of Africa protect ports,
improve schools and, yes, treat camels

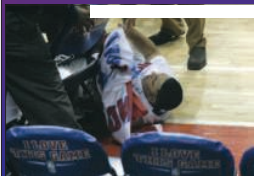
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JOSHUA MONTGOMERY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army Spc. Luis Soto of the Djibouti-based 96th Civil Affairs Battalion inoculates a camel during a recent veterinarian civil affairs project in Ethiopia. The first time troops showed up to treat donkeys, cows, sheep and camels, the turnout was minimal. The local rumor was that U.S. troops would poison their animals. When it was clear that the earliest patients were improving, citizens began to trust the Americans, and more animals were brought in for treatment. "At the last village we went to, it was more important for the men to get their animals treated than their children or wives," said veterinarian Maj. Julie Roche.

Mayhem in Detroit



Scene turns ugly
as Pacers players
brawl with fans

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STARS & STRIPES

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upcoming projects

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Robert Blake murder trial: Jury selection in the Robert Blake murder case was interrupted briefly Friday for an appearance by a former co-defendant of Blake's, who said he will refuse to testify at the trial.

Earle Caldwell, Blake's former handymen, the witness stand only long enough to invoke his constitutional right against self-incrimination. His attorney told Superior Court Judge Darlene Schemp that Caldwell intends to answer no questions because of the possibility he could be charged again.

Jury selection continued after Caldwell's appearance; the judge said she hoped to have it concluded by Tuesday.

San Diego mayor dispute: The election court for mayor of the nation's seventh-largest city ended Friday with incumbent Dick Murphy leading by 2,205 votes, but a court challenge could keep alive the write-in candidacy of a maverick city councilwoman and startup owner.

A Superior Court judge will be asked to consider whether to count ballots on which voters wrote Councilwoman Donna Frye's name but failed to fill in an adjoining bubble. The county registrar of voters has said California's election code prohibits tallying such ballots.

Seventeen days after the election, Murphy had 157,459 votes to 155,254 write-ins verified for Frye, according to the registrar.

Vibe Awards attack: A rapper surrendered Friday to face charges that he stabbed a man who had punched hip-hop superstar Dr. Dre during the taping of a music awards show.

Young Buck, whose real name is David Darnell Buck, turned himself in at police headquarters and was arrested for investigation of one count of attempted murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon.

Brown, wearing a knit cap and heavy chain necklace, was released on \$500,000 bail after being ordered to appear at a Dec. 20 arraignment, Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Sex tourism crackdown: An 86-year-old man was found guilty Friday of attempting to travel to the Philippines to sexually molest girls, in violation of a new federal law aimed at fighting sex tourism.

A judge found John W. Seljan guilty of six counts, including attempting to travel for the purpose of having sex with minors and possession of child pornography. Seljan faces a minimum term of 10 years in prison and a maximum of 270 years when he is sentenced in March.

The retired business owner is one of about a dozen men who have been arrested under the Protect Act, which was enacted last year.

Reporters' sources: Reporters would not be forced to reveal their sources, and their notes, photographs and other material



Georgia crematory trial: Karen Gruber presses a vial to her lips, containing what she says are her sister Shelaine Johnston's ashes, while waiting to catch a glimpse of Ray Brent Marsh outside the Walker County Judiciary Annex in LaFayette, Ga., on Friday. Marsh pleaded guilty to dumping more than 330 corpses on his property and giving the relatives of the dead cement. He apologized for his actions Friday.

would be protected from government eyes under a bill introduced Friday.

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., proposed the legislation as critical to ensuring the nation's liberties.

Under Dodd's bill, the federal courts, legislative or executive branch could not compel a journalist to provide the source of information, regardless of whether that person has been promised confidentiality. That right would extend to a journalist's notebooks, photographic negatives and other material.

The bill says a court could force disclosure of news in cases in which it is critical to a legal issue, the information cannot be obtained anywhere else and an overriding public interest exists in the disclosure.

Military

Boy Scout case dispute: U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis has joined in the effort to reverse the Pentagon's decision to end support for Boy Scout troops sponsored by military bases.

She has plenty of colleagues who feel the same way: By a 391-3 vote, the House on Saturday condemned the Boy Scouts and condemned legal efforts to limit government ties to the group because of its requirement that members believe in God.

The 1st District Republican has asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to reconsider the concession to the American Civil Liberties Union, which Davis described in a

statement as an "extreme group bent on pursuing a political agenda."

An ACLU lawsuit has challenged the relationship, saying the Defense Department shouldn't support an organization that discriminates based on religion because Scouts are required to believe in God.

World

EU defense plans: The European Union is expanding plans to set up several elite battle groups for rapid deployment to international trouble spots.

The original plan was to have nine such groups of 1,500 troops ready by 2007, but EU military officials said an enthusiastic response from nations wanting to contribute forces meant that at least 12 would now be set up.

Of that, four — led by France, Britain, Italy and Spain — should be in place next year.

Russia nuclear missile system: Russia's new nuclear missile system is purely defensive and part of the country's program to upgrade its military, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said the country is developing a new "state-of-the-art" nuclear missile system unlike any weapon held by other countries. He said it will be deployed "in the near future" but gave no details.

Turkey attacks: British diplomats placed a wreath outside the British Consulate and victims laid carnations outside a London-based bank in Istanbul on Saturday to commemorate the first anniversary of two suicide attacks blamed on a Turkish al-Qaida cell.

The Nov. 20, 2003 suicide truck bombings targeting the consulate and the local headquarters of HSBC bank came just five days after similar attacks on two Istanbul synagogues. Some 60 people — including British Consul-General Roger Short and his assistant, Lisa Hallworth — were killed in the bombings.

A Turkish court is hearing the case of 69 Turks accused of involvement in the attacks. Most are believed to have played minor roles.

Hamm Ilhan, a top suspect in the case, recently testified that he and several others carried out the attack for al-Qaida.

U.N. human cloning talks: Both sides in the human cloning debate claimed victory after the United Nations shelved competing proposals to ban the procedure and agreed to meet again in February to try to heal deep divides on the issue.

The compromise Friday means that the U.N. General Assembly will abandon efforts to seek a world-wide treaty. Members could not decide between draft proposals either to ban all human cloning, or to ban reproductive cloning and allow some for stem cell and other research.

Stories and photo from wire services

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A pre-emptive peace strike

U.S., coalition troops beating terror to the punch in Africa

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — As people fight and die in Iraq, there's a quieter war being waged to the south.

The U.S. military launched a pre-emptive strike on the hearts and minds of those living in the Horn of Africa. The United States, military officials say, wants to win the peace on the eastern side of the continent before war breaks out or bad guys move in.

Part of the team in place there is patrolling the busy seaway. Others are drilling wells, fixing up schools and creating jobs. If the United States and its allies make enough friends, according to the strategy, then maybe the Horn of Africa will become a very unfriendly place for terrorists.

"We're prepared to fight," said Marine Col. Craig S. Huddleston, chief of staff for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. "But our preference is to do it by helping people, not hurting people."

The Horn of Africa — Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan — is due south of the terror-prone Middle East. The crux of the region is the 17-mile-wide Strait of Bab El Mandeb, which separates Yemen from Africa. It's narrow enough for terrorists in a fast boat to cross in an hour, and busy enough for them to hide among the shipping traffic.

"The terrorist," Huddleston said, "doesn't need a passport or permission to travel."

The Horn, a mostly impoverished area about two-thirds the size of the continental United States, would be a logical place for well-funded terrorists to find refuge.

"[Terrorism] is not new for our country," said Maj. Tsegaye Debe-

la of the Ethiopian Air Force, an adviser to CJTF-HOA. "Most of the people are appreciative of what the coalition forces, mostly U.S., are doing in Ethiopia."

Surrounded by hot spots

Camp Lemonier, where about 1,500 U.S. troops are based, is surrounded by hot spots.

Sudan, for example, grabbed world attention this year for its alleged state-sponsored rape, pillaging and genocide in its Darfur region.

Anarchy has ruled Somalia for the past 13 years, though a new government there brings hope for change.

To the north of Djibouti, order in Eritrea currently is being kept by U.N. peacekeepers.

Ethiopia has been relatively peaceful since its military rulers were overthrown in 1991.

Kenya has worked through violent and fraud-plagued elections in the 1990s to relative stability.

Across the strait, Yemen suffered through civil wars in the 1970s and '80s, but since has calmed.

In addition to civil wars, anarchy and murderous rulers, the region has seen its share of terrorism, as well as U.S. losses:

■ November 2002: A hotel bombing in Mombasa, Kenya, kills more than a dozen people. An attempt to down an Israeli airliner with a shoulder-held, surface-to-air missile also takes place.

■ October 2000: A suicide boat attack on the guided-missile destroyer USS Cole kills 17 U.S. sailors in Yemen.

■ August 1998: The American Embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanza-



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Marine Col. Craig S. Huddleston, right, chief of staff for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, presents certificates recently to African troops who completed a program to help their countries work together to fight terrorism. The presentation took place at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.

nia, kill more than 200 people and injure thousands.

■ October 1993: Rebel forces kill 18 American soldiers and wound more than 80 in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Invitation arrives

Djibouti, a former French colony that gained independence in 1977, and whose leaders want it to become a bustling port and friendly place, invited the U.S. military onshore in May 2003.

"The threat here is real," said Marine Capt. Brian Dibbi, the Camp Lemonier force protection officer. "There are people out there who want to harm us and stop what we're doing in the region."

Huddleston said the U.S. military could simply hunt down terrorists, but that might create more enemies. So instead, they're trying to build hope, make allies, and create a place where people will shun terrorists instead of supporting them.

SEE AFRICA ON PAGE 5



Stars and Stripes

Building citizens' trust often starts with the animals

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — The first mission was a bust.

A crew of well-meaning, but not-yet-trusted, U.S. troops had traveled from Camp Lemonier south into Ethiopia to do a veterinarian civil affairs project.

The crew was going to treat donkeys, cows and camels, but word among the tribe was that the Americans were going to poison their animals.

Only a few people showed up. Their camels were treated for annoyances such as boils, their goats for ailments such as hyena bites. The animals got shots and got fed.

Over a few weeks, the calves got fatter and the camels healthier. The word among the tribe changed.

"The next time we went there, the animals came pouring in," said Maj. Julie Roche, of Sarge G's, a veterinarian and Army reservist assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion.

She considered it a victory of sorts in the war on terror.

"For me, it's a victory on the animal side," Roche said. "Once you get a victory there, you've got a little victory with the people."

Animals are like currency in the African wild. They provide milk, food and are used as beasts of burden to carry belongings from one place to the next.

"At the last village we went to, it was more important for the men to get their animals treated than their children or

wives," Roche said. "We'd go to treat the wives and they'd tell us to take care of the animals first."

About 1,500 U.S. troops are stationed at Camp Lemonier as part of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Since establishing the camp in May 2003, the troops through October had conducted 18 veterinary projects and 19 medical civil affairs projects, as well as nearly 90 assorted school renovations, military-to-military training programs, plus well-diggings, hospital resupplies and so on.

The troops choose sites where the most impact would be made and consult local leaders before showing up. Sometimes it means flying to remote destinations and driving for hours up a dry riverbed.

It always requires translators who speak French, Arabic or one of the African languages.

The host nation often provides security. It hasn't yet been needed.

"We haven't fired a shot in anger or been shot at since we've been here," said Marine Col. Craig S. Huddleston, chief of staff for CJTF-HOA.

Roche, who was also called up to serve in the Balkans and Afghanistan, said she has been both rewarded and humbled by the experience.

"You realize there are a lot of people out there who don't have what you have and are perfectly happy," she said. "They just want the basics — food and water."

— Charlie Coon



Seaman Christen Moulton, a U.S. Navy hospital corpsman from Naval Station Rota, Spain, tends to a critically injured astronaut during a space shuttle disaster drill on Friday at Moron Air Base, Spain.



Spanish firefighters help put a U.S. servicemember dressed in a space suit onto the ground during the drill. The base is one of two emergency-landing sites in Spain for the shuttle.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes
An unidentified U.S. Navy medical technician tends to an injured shuttle crewmember during the drill. It was one of the largest exercises the military and NASA has done.

Morón Air Base drills for shuttle disaster

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

MORÓN AIR BASE, Spain — If the space shuttle had to make an emergency landing shortly after launch, what would it be like?

NASA officials, along with U.S. military and Spanish civilian medical teams, wanted to know.

So they held a mock shuttle disaster Friday on the runway at this military base in southern Spain to test how they would react to such a catastrophe.

It was an important drill. If disaster struck the shuttle, astronauts could use the base runway 35 miles southeast of Seville to make an emergency landing.

"It's exercises like this that give us assurance that should we launch and there is a contingency, locations like these are ready," Tim O'Brien, a senior NASA representative, told the teams.

Morón — a Spanish base that is home to about 120 U.S. Air Force personnel — is one of two emergency-landing sites, or Transoceanic Abort Landing bases, in Spain. The other is in Zaragoza, which is in the northeast. There are more than four dozen similar sites spread out across the globe to give NASA a last chance at saving the shuttle and the crew if something goes wrong.

More than 50 people from



Spanish civilian emergency response personnel from Seville rush a U.S. servicemember to a waiting helicopter. There were some language problems between the Americans and Spaniards during the drill.

NASA, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and emergency medical teams from a hospital in Seville participated in the exercise. Although the base has held similar exercises, it marked the first time in nine years Seville medical evacuation personnel took part.

It was one of the largest such exercises NASA and the military have ever done.

"This is a very large-scale exercise in the scheme of things," said

Tom Friers, a NASA ground operations manager.

The scenario involved the shuttle having a problem after blasting off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida and having to land at the base. During the landing, one of the tires blows and the nose gear collapses. The seven crew members are injured; three critically.

A 45-passenger Blue Bird bus served as the shuttle during the rehearsal and seven servicemen-

bers played the roles of the injured cabin crew.

Firefighters dressed in bulky, silver suits rushed to the bus as soon as Navy and Air Force teams got the signal from the on-scene commander. Their job: pull the astronauts from the bus and take them to a safe area more than 1,000 feet away from the nose of the shuttle.

The Spanish firefighters wear the protective suits because of the hazardous chemicals that are in the orbiter's thrusters.

One of the role-playing astronauts wore a heavy, orange space suit to give the practice run more realism. It proved to be a challenge for firefighters to transport him to waiting medical personnel. About 40 doctors, nurses and corpsmen from the Navy hospital in Rota treated the injured just as they would have in a real disaster.

The drill was not without its share of mistakes. There were language problems between the Americans and Spaniards, and teams struggled to figure out how to get the injured astronauts from one location to the other. Some of the people who participated had never been involved in such an exercise of this scale.

Although the shuttle support team has areas to improve, Air Force Col. Bob Pecoraro, commander of the 712th Air Base

Group at Morón, said he has no doubts that the base will be ready for the next shuttle launch in May.

"We have no concerns about if a launch were to happen today, we'd be ready," Pecoraro said.

Lt. Cmdr. Fred Lindsay, a doctor at Naval Station Rota, said it was important for the different groups of people to get out on the runway and see where they need to improve for the next launch.

"Medically trained, we're fine," he said after the drill. "It's just the logistics of moving the astronauts from here, getting them medically treated and then leaving the area and going to Seville. Just that 10- and 15-minute part of how we're going to do that [is what] we're trying to figure out."

Although shuttle crews have never had to make an emergency landing, such a tragedy is not so unthinkable. In 1999, it almost happened. The shuttle experienced a reduction in engine power after a part shook loose seconds after launch.

The 2003 Columbia explosion in which the seven astronauts were killed is a reminder that things can go tragically wrong in an instant.

"Hopefully, we'll never have to use [an emergency-landing site], but it's good to know that they're here," O'Brien said.

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Air Force Academy cracks down on Bible verses in e-mail

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force Academy officials are cracking down on a practice by some staffers to put Bible verses at the bottom of their academy e-mail.

"None of this [Bible or personal signa-

ture notes] is appropriate, and it says this in Air Force Instructions," Lt. Col. Lauren Fox said Thursday.

Academy officials sent a memo to everyone at the school Sept. 15 explaining the policy for using government e-mail.

Earlier this week, academy superintendent Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa said the school

would bolster its religious tolerance training after a survey showed evidence of harassment or pressure toward cadets based on their beliefs.

He said about half the cadets who responded to the annual survey reported hearing religious slurs, comments or jokes, and that some cadets felt ostracized

because they weren't religious.

Fox said Rosa has been working on the problem since March, when academy commanders admonished cadets for using academy e-mail to encourage people to watch "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's movie about the crucifixion.

Africa: Uniting nations with goal of peace

AFRICA, FROM PAGE 3

"We'll leave if the local people don't want us here," Huddleston said. "Or we'll leave if the region has become stable and secure and not a friendly place for terrorists to be, or if [U.S. troops] are needed elsewhere."

"I think we're going to be here long enough for the nations of the region to work together with all our other partners in the war on terrorism to eliminate the threat here."

"That's why I think it will take awhile."

Part of a bigger plan

The attempt to win the hearts and minds of East Africans is coming in from inside and outside the region.

The fleet that patrols the Strait of Bab El Mandeb includes French, Dutch and British ships.

Troops training with the United States include Yemeni, Ethiopian, Djiboutian and Kenyan.

"It's a war of ideas and concepts, and [the strategy] is about building a coalition," said Marine Maj. Greg Beisbier, who runs a program that trains officers from neighboring nations on how to work as a team.

For example, Beisbier said, various nations are working together to create a secure computer network, similar to the U.S. Department of Defense's Secure Internet Protocol Routing system, known as SIPR-NET, so they can share information confidentially.

Time will tell

Camp Lemonier was Spartan when the



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Children inside a classroom at a school in Djibouti City, Djibouti. U.S. troops are hiring African contractors to renovate this building and others. Many of the schools the troops are renovating are so crowded that the children have to attend classes in shifts, with some going to school in the mornings and others in the afternoons and evenings.

Americans arrived but has grown considerably in the past 18 months.

Now it is a relatively comfortable down-range base, about 88 acres with a good chow hall, lighted outdoor basketball court, and a spacious pinto bar that has music and a three-beer limit.

The four major services work in unison; staffing is about 40 percent Marines and 20 percent each of Army, Navy and Air Force. There are also 1,100 Djiboutians and contractors employed there.

"We put a huge amount of money into their economy and they are very much aware of that," Dibb said.

"We may have been terrorist organizations to the punch here. We may have a little jump on them."

Just south of Djibouti City, Tech. Sgt. Marshall Brown of Mount Vernon, Ky., is leading a team that is building a ford across a flood plain. The ford is on the main, dirt road that connects Djibouti City and the village of Holhol.

"If people can't travel this road, they can't get to town," Brown said.

The World Food Organization also uses the road to transport food from the Port of Djibouti south into Ethiopia.

When it flooded, rocks washed across

the road, making it useless after the water subsided. The ford will keep the road passable.

As a member of the Air Force's 823rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron, known as RED HORSE, based in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.,

Brown, 33, said he spends more than half of each year traveling the world working on projects.

Brown said he understood why his government deployed him and others to the Horn of Africa. Whether or not the mission will be worth it, Brown took a wait-and-see stance.

"I guess time will tell," he said.

As jobs are created and people are helped, an intelligence network is emerging.

The tribesmen and other locals know bad guys when they see them and hopefully would share that information with coalition forces. The militaries of different nations are leveraging their assets.

Terrorists don't stand a chance, at least not in Djibouti City, according to Said Haussien, director of port security and a member of the Djiboutian navy.

"There are people here who want their country and they want their peace," Haussien said.

Added Dibb: "We're not superheroes saving the day, but we are giving them a better future. We're giving them a reason to see beyond tomorrow."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@main.strips.com



Brown

clip & save

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS THE MOVIE

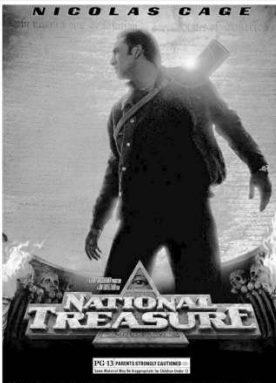
Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

Adana	14-20 Jan
Aviano	7-13 Jan
Bahenhausen	7-13 Jan
Salad	3-9 Dec
Bamberg	10-16 Dec
Barmher	24-30 Dec
Bitburg	7-13 Jan
Camp Doha	24-30 Dec
Darmstadt	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Deinheim	17-23 Dec
Friedberg	14-20 Jan
Giebelstadt	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Grafenwoehr	10-16 Dec
Hansa	3-9 Dec
Heidelberg	10-16 Dec
Hohenfels	17-23 Dec
Ilshelm	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Katterbach	24-30 Dec
Kitzingen	24-30 Dec
Kosovo	14-20 Jan
Lakenheath	10-16 Dec
Manheim	3-9 Dec
Mildenhall	3-9 Dec
Ramstein Hercules	17-23 Dec
Ramstein Nightingale	10-16 Dec
Rhein Main	24-30 Dec
Schweinfurt	17-23 Dec
Spangdahlem	31 Dec, 4-6 Jan
Tutla	28 Jan-03 Feb
Vaihingen	17-23 Dec
Vicenza	14-20 Jan
Vilseck	3-9 Dec
Vöhringen	3-9 Dec
Wiesbaden	10-16 Dec
Wuerzburg	3-9 Dec

Coming to your FIRSTRUN Theater!



In the depths of Bikini Bottom: King Neptune's crown has been stolen, and the prime suspect is Mr. Krabs, proprietor of Mr. Krabs Krabby Patties. Despite evidence to the contrary, SpongeBob teamed up with his best friend, Patrick, on a mission to Shell City, where he hopes he can exonerate Mr. Krabs. However, once outside the relative safety of Bikini Bottom, SpongeBob is faced with the overwhelming dangers of the sea.



Gates is an archeologist who is from the eighth generation of a family who've shared an unusual quest. As Gates family legend has it, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin hid a massive cache of gold during the waning days of the Revolutionary War, and left clues as to its whereabouts in the original drafts of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. With no firm proof that it actually exists, Gates sets out to crack the code that will lead him to the fortune.

clip & save

NATIONAL TREASURE

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Adana	14-20 Jan
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Darmstadt	4-6 Jan
Dexheim	17-23 Dec
Friedberg	14-20 Jan
Giebelstadt	4-6 Jan
Grafenwoehr	10-16 Dec
Hansa	3-9 Dec
Heidelberg	10-16 Dec
Hohenfels	17-23 Dec
Ilshelm	4-6 Jan
Katterbach	24-30 Dec
Kitzingen	24-30 Dec
Kosovo	14-20 Jan
Lakenheath	10-16 Dec
Manheim	3-9 Dec
Mildenhall	3-9 Dec
Ramstein Hercules	17-23 Dec
Rhein Main	24-30 Dec
Schweinfurt	17-23 Dec
Spangdahlem	4-6 Jan
Tutla	28 Jan-03 Feb
Vaihingen	17-23 Dec
Vicenza	14-20 Jan
Vilseck	3-9 Dec
Vöhringen	3-9 Dec
Wiesbaden	10-16 Dec
Wuerzburg	3-9 Dec

THEATERS

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

THEATERS

Europe food drives spread holiday spirit

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Holiday collections have begun throughout Europe, including a new food drive by soldiers from the Vaalengeen-based 52nd Signal Battalion.

"If we can't do it everyday, at least we can do it through the holidays to help out these communities," said 1st Sgt. Erika Gholar of Prentiss, Miss., and the 587th Signal Company.

Gholar said the food drive started within her company but interest spread.

"We just wanted to take it to the community," Gholar said. "We have one young soldier with five dependents. We figured if we have (soldiers like that), there are others in the community who are the same way."

In Stuttgart, food collection boxes have been placed at the commissaries at Patch, Kelley and Robinson barracks and at the Shopette at Panzer Casern, as well as at other locations on Patch. Gholar stressed that donated goods must be non-perishable, such as canned goods and dry foods.

This weekend, the soldiers collected goods at the Patch movie theater in exchange for half-price movie tickets.

Other communities have begun extra efforts for the holidays.

For example, soldiers from Vilesek, who travel several times per year to donate food and clothing to a small Polish town, will be joined next weekend by classes from nearby Grafenwöhr.

Over to home, Sgt. 1st Class Todd Clayman, a chaplain assistant at Vilesek, said many young people who join the Army are also married with children. A private's or corporal's salary doesn't stretch very far during the holidays, he said.

"And if they're younger kids, you have stay-at-home moms who don't work," Clayman said.

So Vilesek, like other military communities in Europe, is holding angel-tree programs to collect gifts for children and handing out vouchers for holiday hams and turkeys.

People seem more aware of charity during the holidays, such as inviting people for holiday dinners, according to Chaplain (Col.) Eric Holstrom, chief of the department of pastoral services at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

At Landstuhl, however, the gifts are usually of clothes for troops who were wounded in action and flown to Landstuhl with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

"The [giving] comes from this side of the Atlantic but also from back home," Holstrom said. "They care about our warriors, our soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom."

The food drive at Stuttgart, Gholar said, is to supplement the voucher program and help fill out the Christmas dinner table.

She hoped it wouldn't be the last time troops in Stuttgart passed to gether during the holidays.

"We want the command groups who come here after us to make it carry it on," Gholar said. "We want to make it an annual theme and take care of our community here."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.strips.esd.mil

U.S. giving hotels back to Germany

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military is returning to the German government the last of the hotels it confiscated at the end of World War II.

The turnover of the hotels at Lake Chiemsee and Garmisch has nothing to do with the expected reduction of U.S. troops in Europe over the next decade. Rather, it is part of a long-term process of eliminating facilities deemed in excess of U.S. military needs, said Pete Isaacs, chief operating officer for U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, based in Alexandria, Va.

The Chiemsee Lake resort and the Von Steuben and Gen. George Patton hotels in Garmisch originally were scheduled to close last year in advance of the opening of the Armed Forces Recreation Center's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch.

But a desire to provide hotel



File photo

A kayak and a sailboat passes AFRC Chiemsee's Lake Hotel in this 2003 photo. The U.S. military will return the Lake Chiemsee and Garmisch hotels to Germany in the next six months, if not sooner.

rooms and resort areas for troops taking rest and recuperation leave from Iraq and Afghanistan kept them open longer than originally anticipated.

With the opening of the 330-room Edelweiss complex in September, there is no longer a

need to retain the other hotels, which are more than 60 years old and cost more to maintain than they're worth, Isaacs said.

"The [hotels] now exceed our needs," he said. "We can meet total demand of the market and accommodate all R&R requirements in one building."

After the completion of a needs assessment and review of repairs, the Defense Department approved turnover plans to the German government, he said.

Over the next 30 days, possibly sooner, the Chiemsee resort will change hands. The U.S. government has spent about \$500,000 over the past 18 months for necessary repairs, security and to keep utilities running in preparation for the turnover, Isaacs said.

The handover of the Von Steuben and Gen. Patton hotels, already closed to U.S. servicemembers and their families, will likely take place over the next three to six months, and will cost the military less than \$100,000 for repairs and other needs, Isaacs said.

At one time, the U.S. military operated hotels confiscated from the Nazis after World War II in seven cities, but the number dwindled as they were no longer needed.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontz@mail.strips.esd.mil

Debit, credit card upgrades

Debit and credit cards used by U.S. troops and Department of Defense civilian employees are getting a compatibility upgrade.

As of next year, cards issued by military banks and credit unions will be usable at 935,000 teller machines and 7 million merchants as a result of an alliance between the Armed Forces Financial Network and MasterCard International.

That means the 89 million cardholders belonging to base banks and credit unions will be able to use their cards at stores or cash machines affiliated with the Maestro and Cirrus networks. Customers won't need new cards, even if their current plastic isn't currently labeled as compatible with those systems.

Mildenhall Thanksgiving service

A Thanksgiving service hosted by the 100th Air Refueling Wing chapel at RAF Mildenhall, England, will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Ely Cathedral.

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band clarinet quintet and the choir from RAF Lakenheath, England, will perform.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service, will be the guest speaker. The service is free and open to the public.

Gift certificates on sale

Commissaries in Europe are selling gift certificates in time for the holidays, and are asking ambitious elves, such as military relief organizations, to stock up early.

"Last year, we had to go to some extraordinary measures in order to fill large requests made very close to the holidays," Gerri Young, spokeswoman for Defense Commissary Agency Europe, said in a news release.

Young asked bulk purchasers to e-mail requests to Gretchen@certificates.com. Ev-

eryone else can buy them in stores.

The certificates are worth \$25 and are available at customer service offices. Commissaries charge a \$1 handling fee to offset printing, shipping and handling costs.

The in-store holiday vouchers do not replace the certificates sold online, which also remain available. They can also be used at commissaries outside Europe.

'Star' to perform in Europe

The winner of USA Network's "Nashville Star 2" contest will tour bases in Germany and the Balkans over the Thanksgiving season.

Brad Cottler will perform Sunday through Nov. 29 at military installations and share turkeys with troops. Exact stops and dates on the tour, organized through the United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment, were not released.

From staff reports

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Study: Family opinion key to re-enlistment

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The military, so the saying goes, enlists a soldier but re-enlists a family.

Getting families to re-up in time of war, however, is a daunting task the Defense Department hopes will be made easier with research by experts at Purdue University.

"Today, more than ever, we don't go to war without the support of our families," said Lt. Col. Joe Richard, a Pentagon spokesman.

Purdue's Military Family Research Institute was formed five years ago with an \$8 million federal grant to study soldiers and their families, with the research being used by policy makers to keep soldiers in the service.

From offering better housing to financial incentives to postwar counseling, military officials recognize they have to keep soldiers and families happy if they are to maintain troop strength in an all-volunteer military, Richard said.

When the research got going in 2000, the project focused on military families in peacetime. The fight against terrorism and war in Iraq changed that focus.

"They're very concerned about redeployment," said Shelley MacDermid, co-director of the institute about 65 miles northwest of Indianapolis. "How do you bring people home and turn them around to go again?"

So far, the researchers have created an index that measures commitment among soldiers and their spouses and tracks potential attrition problems. They also helped the defense department develop a "social compact" that links quality-of-life programs and the military's readiness. The compact also lays out a 20-year plan to help the military compete for recruits with the civilian sector.

Now, the institute is currently looking at the help soldiers get when they come home. A Purdue team traveled to Germany this year to interview soldiers from

the 1st Armored Division, which lost at least 40 soldiers during the last three months of a 15-month deployment.

Deborah Olson of West Lafayette is participating in one study examining how soldiers from the Lafayette-based 29th Quartermaster Company have adjusted since returning home from Iraq in April.

Olson's husband, Sgt. David Olson, spent a year with the close-knit Army Reserve unit, which lost a member in a roadside bombing attack.

"Even my close friends couldn't imagine what it would be like to go through that," said Olson, who has two young daughters.

How the spouse views the military and the way the soldier is treated by it can determine whether the soldier re-enlists, MacDermid said.

"Spouses are not just an appendage to the member," MacDermid said. "The spouse makes his or her own decision about whether or not the family should stay in the military."

Among other projects from the institute is an assessment of how military life affects children. Researchers recently began working with 1,000 families to find ways to ease the transition for children who move frequently.

The assessment is part of a larger project on how moving — a mainstay of military life — affects families. The defense department expects to issue a report to military leaders and school districts after reviewing the data.

The institute was created specifically from the \$8 million Pentagon grant after Purdue submitted a proposal and won the contract. Besides conducting research, the institute serves as a clearinghouse for other facilities studying military families.

MacDermid said the scope of the institute's work can be overwhelming.

"How do you try to address the needs of 3 million members and their families, 24/7, all over the planet?" she said. "It makes you just want to cover your head sometimes."

Troops practice aim at Vilseck exercise



Sgt. 1st Class Eric Freeborn from V Corps' Company E, 51st Infantry (Long Range Surveillance) gives firing instruction to Pfc. Jonathan Stokley from Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, 165th Military Intelligence Battalion during convoy live-fire training. It was part of last week's exercise, Vanguard Endeavor, in Vilseck, Germany. During the exercise, elements of the corps' 205th MI Brigade trained on realistic battlefield scenarios geared to current operations.

KRISTOPHER JOSEPH/Courtesy of U.S. Army

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U.S. likely to expand forces before Iraq vote

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Commanders in Iraq probably will expand their troops by several thousand as the January elections approach, the No. 2 commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East said Friday.

Li Gen. Lance L. Smith told a Pentagon news conference that no final decisions have been made and that the size of the troop increase will depend in part on whether the insurgency grows or weakens in the aftermath of the Fallujah offensive, which he called a major success.

Smith estimated that commanders would ask for about a brigade's worth of extra troops, which would be roughly 5,000. He said that probably would be achieved by keeping some units that were scheduled to serve 10 months in Iraq for an extra two months. He did not name the units.

There now are about 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, he said.

"We will make a further assessment as we get a little bit closer" to the elections scheduled for late January, "and as we understand what the impact of Fallujah is on the entire country," he said.

Smith said he believed that terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was still in Iraq but

General estimates commanders will ask for 5,000 extra troops for security during January elections

that the U.S.-Iraqi offensive this past week had eliminated Fallujah as an al-Zarqawi base of operations.

Troops who have searched buildings in Fallujah over the past 10 days found 431 home-made bombs, which the military calls improved explosive devices, or IEDs. By comparison, 348 IEDs were found in all of Iraq during October, Smith said. IEDs are a favored weapon of the insurgents in attacks that kill or wound American troops and Iraqis almost daily.

The three-star general also said it appeared that al-Zarqawi and senior leaders of the al-Qaida terrorist network had attempted to communicate, probably by courier, from Pakistan or Afghanistan.

"We know for a fact that there are attempted communications between them," he said. "There is a relationship between al-Qaida senior leadership and al-Zarqawi. How to characterize that, we don't know yet."

That does not mean that al-Qaida is offering instruction or guidance to the insurgency in Iraq, he said. "I wouldn't characterize it as giving guidance, other than broad philosophy."

The coordinator of U.S. reconstruction work in Iraq, meanwhile, said security risks to workers in Sunni-dominated parts of the country have grown worse over the past six weeks.

"We're having greater difficulties," said William Taylor, director of the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "We're worried that in some areas — again, not all — in some areas it would now be difficult to have elections," and so it is important that reconstruction work be accelerated so voting can take place nationwide in late January, Taylor said.

He spoke from Baghdad in a video teleconference with reporters at the Pentagon.

He said reconstruction is continuing in southern and northeastern Iraq without serious problems.

An independent assessment of U.S. aid efforts in Iraq, by analyst Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, paints a somewhat gloomier picture.

Cordesman wrote in a study published Thursday, that despite some successes the aid work has fallen short.

"U.S. economic aid has lagged far behind the need for urgent action, has wasted vast resources on an impractical contracting effort and reflects U.S. views and priorities" rather than those of the Iraqis, he wrote.

Cordesman also urged that the U.S. government begin to transfer the management of economic aid to the Iraqi government, allowing the Iraqis to use the money

for their own projects.

More broadly, Cordesman said he believes that the odds of the Bush administration achieving its political goal of establishing a stable democracy in Iraq are "at best even, and may well be worse."

Charles Hess, director of reconstruction contracting, appeared with Taylor and said that although "security is still a serious concern," U.S. officials believe they can overcome it.

Hess said intentional sabotage is a problem, particularly in the oil industry that is the backbone of Iraq's economy.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Nov. 19, 2004, at least 1,217 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 946 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,079 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 837 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:
■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Catalin D. Dima, 36, White Lake, N.Y., killed last Saturday in a mortar attack in Baghdad, assigned to the Army Reserve, 411th Engineer Brigade, New Windsor, N.Y.

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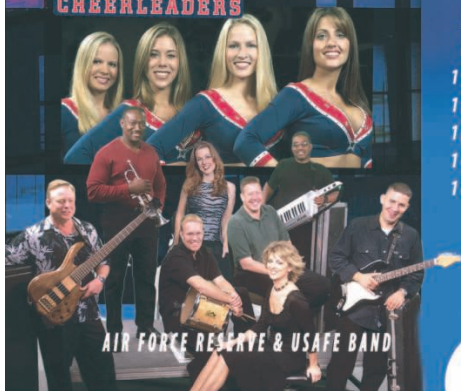
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U.S. troops give Iraqi kids some space

By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Col. Bradly MacNeally hates empty space.

That's why he initiated a space-available program to ferry troops around Iraq if there is a seat aboard any aircraft of the Task Force 185th Aviation, which he commands.

And that's why these same birds carry school supplies donated through Operation Iraqi Children to units far and wide for distribution to local schools.

"If we have empty space on our aircraft, we're doing something wrong," MacNeally said.

He is especially proud of the task force's effort to get the school supplies to Iraqi children, but worried that the effort will end when his troops leave soon.

Supplies donated to the charity founded by actor Gary Sinise were getting only to Kuwait, where they languished. The 185th

Task Force took on the job of distributing them throughout the country, getting them one step closer to their intended recipients.

The two groups came together through the family support group for the 185th Aviation Brigade of the Mississippi National Guard. The support group had collected a colossal amount of school supplies of its own to send, including 8,000 backpacks stuffed with items for young students.

It approached FedEx to help deliver the goods overseas. FedEx already was helping Operation Iraqi Children, but was frustrated because the gear was stuck in Kuwait. It wondered if the brigade could help.

"We said, 'Well, we'll give it a try,'" MacNeally said.

The brigade already had a secret weapon in this effort. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeffrey Smith, who works in Kuwait for the brigade's rear detachment to send aircraft parts north, had established relationships with Air Force and Army logistics people. He began seeking space for the idle school supplies for Operation Iraqi Children.

In August, it began arriving at Logistics Support Area Anacanda in the form of large, towering pallets that included such things as notebooks and soccer balls.

Capt. Stacey Cetin coordinates delivery of the supplies to units throughout Iraq that want to help out a nearby school. If there is room aboard the brigade's CH-47 Chinooks, C-23 Sherpas or UH-60 Black Hawks, the supplies are loaded.

"It goes space available," she said. "Mission comes first. Beans and bullets come first."

Flying crews soon got into the act. They have begun figuring out how a brief detour can drop off goods somewhere without harming the mission.

Soon, Cetin's phone began ringing. E-mails began arriving. Soldiers, airmen and Marines all wanted supplies sent to them.

"They're very thankful," she said of the units that receive the school supplies. "They're also saying, 'Can you put us back on the list again?'"

MacNeally said about three deliveries are being made each day by his aircraft. In all, the brigade has received and delivered 800 pallets of supplies since it began this effort.

MacNeally and Cetin are concerned that when their tour concludes at the end of December, the supplies might languish again in a Kuwaiti warehouse.


"We're hoping the unit that comes in to replace us picks it up," MacNeally said. "If we weren't doing this, that warehouse in Kuwait would be filling up."

The effort is more than a sidelight to the goal of the entire operation, the commander said. It is providing help to the people of Iraq, showing them that America is here to help, not to occupy.

In that way, he said, it is a direct part of the war effort.

"And it's not paid for by the government," he said of the supplies. "These are civilians donating to the cause that is helping us win over here."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.strips.osd.mil



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IN THE WORLD

Bush seeks support against nuclear threats

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — President Bush on Saturday tried to marshal international support to counter dual nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea, two nations in what he calls an "axis of evil."

Diplomats say Iran is produc-

ing significant quantities of a gas that can be used to make nuclear arms just days before it must stop all work related to uranium enrichment.

"It is very important for the Iran government to hear that we are concerned about their desires and we're concerned about reports that show that before a cer-

tain international meeting they're willing to speed up the processing of materials that could lead to a nuclear weapon," Bush said.

"This is a very serious matter. The world knows it's a serious matter and we're working together to solve this matter," he said.

Bush lauded the efforts of European nations involved in diploma-

cy to persuade Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons. Iran last week agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and all related activities in a deal worked out with Britain, France, Germany and the European Union.

The deal, which goes into force Monday, prohibits Iran from all uranium gas-processing activi-

ties, as well as other programs linked to enrichment.

"They do believe that Iran has got nuclear ambitions, as do we, as do many around the world," Bush said.

On North Korea, Bush said the communist nation's leader, Kim Jong Il, will "hear a common voice."

The United States and its regional partners demanding it stop its nuclear weapons program.

Bush spoke on the sidelines of the annual 21-nation Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation forum, which came at a time of heightened concern over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Bush met in quick succession with four partners in now-stalled talks with the communist regime in Pyongyang, Russia, South Korea, Japan, the United States, China and North Korea make up the six-party talks.

Three rounds of talks held in Beijing since last year have yielded little progress and North Korea refused to attend a fourth round slated for September. Bush administration officials believe North Korea dragged its feet on the talks earlier this year, awaiting the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

"What's very important is for the leader of the North Korea to understand that the six-party talks will be the framework in which we continue to discuss the mutual goal we all have, which is to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons," Bush said, sitting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.



Bush

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Earthquake hits Costa Rica during summit

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — A strong, early morning earthquake Saturday jolted the Costa Rican capital, where leaders of 21 nations were gathered for the Ibero-American Summit.

Local radio stations said there were scattered reports of collapsed walls, shattered windows, toppled trees and landslides-blocked highways from the quake, which hit at 2:07 a.m. local time.

Red Cross spokesman Luis Huertas said a 64-year-old woman in San Jose died of a heart attack and that several people suffered minor injuries. All the summit figures were reportedly unharmed.

The U.S. National Earthquake Information Center said the quake had a magnitude of 6.2 and was centered 30 miles south-southwest of San Jose.

MILITARY SALES



Ukraine's troubled election goes to voters

BY JIM HEINTZ
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainians choose a president Sunday after months of tension that included widespread allegations of official interference, claims that a candidate was poisoned by his foes and a cliffhanger first-round vote.



Yanukovich

The runoff election between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and reformist Viktor Yushchenko could determine whether the ex-Soviet republic of 48 million pursues closer integration with the West or comes more into the Kremlin's sphere of influence. But in the weeks leading up to the vote, such broad policy issues have been overshadowed by concerns about whether the voting will be free and the ballots counted accurately. International figures, including President Bush, called on Ukrainian authorities

this week for a credible vote.

"You play a central role in ensuring that Ukraine's election is democratic and free of fraud and manipulation," Bush said in a letter delivered Friday to President Leonid Kuchma, who is not seeking a new term. "A tarnished election, however, will lead us to re-evaluate our relations with Ukraine."

The Oct. 31 first round was riddled

with complaints of voting irregularities and intimidation. The Central Elections Commission took 10 days to announce the results, rais-



Yushchenko

ing questions about its procedures.

The final count showed Yushchenko barely ahead of Yanukovich, each with slightly more than 39 percent of the vote, even though all previous partial tallies put Yanukovich ahead.

Since then, Yushchenko's campaign has continued to complain its supporters are being intimidated. On Saturday, the campaign

said two allies of Yushchenko were beaten in Kiev while investigating possible vote-rigging; however, the news agency Interfax later cited police as saying one of the deputies had beaten a police officer. Yanukovich's staff said Saturday it had received reports of voter list irregularities and claims that pens with disappearing ink were being distributed, the news agency Unian reported.

Afghan man sentenced to die for killing journalists

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan court sentenced a man to death Saturday for the 2001 killing of three foreign journalists and an Afghan colleague who were pulled from their cars, robbed and shot as they rushed to cover the collapse of the Taliban.

The court also convicted Reza Khan of raping an Italian reporter before she died in one of the deadliest attacks on foreign civilians since the fall of the former hardline regime.

"You are sentenced to death," Presiding Judge Abdul Baset Bakhtyari told Khan after a brief session of Afghanistan's Primary National Security Court.

Armed men stopped the journalists as they drove from the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad to the capital on Nov. 19, 2001, six days after the Taliban abandoned Kabul following heavy U.S. bombing.

The four were Australian TV cameraman Harry Burton and Afghan photographer Azizullah Haidari of Reuters news agency, Maria Grazia Cutuli of Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, and Julio Fuentes of the Spanish El Mundo daily.

It was unclear whether Khan, who listened impassively as the verdict was announced, would appeal the death sentence or a separate 15-year jail term.

Khan had admitted shooting one of the foreigners — it was unclear which — and raping Cutuli in a confession broadcast on Afghan state television in August.



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8 dead after blast in Italy

The Associated Press

FOGGIA, Italy — An explosion leveled a two-story apartment building in this southern city early Saturday, killing eight people and injuring another six, authorities said.

Hours after the blast, rescuers digging through the rubble removed the last body, that of a 79-year-old man who lived in a basement apartment.

Fire Company Chief Vincenzo De Rosa, speaking by telephone from the scene, said the blast might have been caused by a gas leak, but said it was too soon to tell. Earlier, state radio quoted authorities as saying that a gas leak, possibly from a faulty gas canister, appeared to be the cause.

The explosion, which occurred just after 3 a.m., turned the building into a pile of rubble. Mattresses hurled by the force of the blast landed in the street, where some parked cars were heavily damaged.

The dead reportedly included an entire family — the parents and their two children — and three members of another family who lived in the building. At least six residents escaped with injuries, most of them slight, authorities said. The youngest victim was reportedly a boy of seven.

In November 1999, 67 people perished when a six-story apartment building in Foggia collapsed. An investigation concluded in early 2000 that shoddy construction caused the collapse.

Gas blasts are not uncommon in Italy, where many people use gas canisters instead of more expensive boilers for heating and cooking.



Rescuers look for survivors after a two-story building was destroyed Saturday in an explosion in Foggia, southern Italy. Officials said eight people were killed and six more were injured in the blast, which may have been caused by a gas leak.



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Croatia OKs space rights for U.S. GIs

BY SNJEZANA VUKIC
The Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia's defense minister confirmed Friday that the government had signed a deal that would grant wide rights for U.S. troops to use the Balkan country's air space, territorial waters and training facilities.

The memorandum of understanding was signed in July with President Sipe Mesic — the supreme commander of Croatia's military — Defense Minister Brislav Roncovic acknowledged.

He said that Mesic — Croatia's most vocal opponent of the U.S.-led war in Iraq — was bypassed due to a "misunderstanding," but added that the line of command had been respected.

"I think we will continue the talks about the memorandum so that there will be no more misunderstandings," Roncovic said.

The document, signed by Deputy Defense Minister Jelena Gracic-Polic at the U.S. air base in Ramstein, Germany, refers to the U.S. troops that are to train Croatia forces as the country, a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, prepares for eventual full membership in the alliance.

The five-year agreement must be approved by Parliament before taking effect, Roncovic said.

Mesic protested that he had been ignored in the decision-making process, saying he first learned about the memorandum from press reports. He added he would study the document carefully.

The memorandum was kept secret until the *Jutarnji list* newspaper published excerpts of it last weekend, drawing criticism in a country where many citizens are sensitive about sovereignty issues. Croatia fought a bloody war in the early 1990s with its Serb minority, which rebelled against Croatia's independence from the former Yugoslavia.

The agreement says that U.S. troops can freely use Croatian air space, airports, waters and ports, and travel without a Croatian escort, according to *Jutarnji list*.

U.S. troops will also be allowed to use the Croatian army's two best training facilities and won't pay any fees for using airports, roads and buildings.

Political analyst Inoslav Besker said earlier this week the deal was "humiliating" for Croatia. He warned Croatia won't be able to object if the U.S. troops in future use the bases here "for the actions they'll take besides NATO, for their own wars, — making Croatia a target" for possible retaliatory attacks.

Croatia has insisted the war in Iraq should have been authorized by the United Nations.

Dutch may cut access to famed 'coffee shops'

BY CONSTANT BRAND
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner said Friday access to popular Dutch "coffee shops" to smoke marijuana could be cut for foreigners — including other EU citizens — as part of a new European Union drug control policy.

Donner, whose country holds the EU presidency, said a meeting of EU justice and interior ministers agreed on guidelines for setting up an eight-year drug action plan in the 25-nation bloc.

Under the strategy EU countries would coordinate efforts to cut supplies of soft and hard drugs as well as demand for the drugs, through prevention programs and police enforcement.

Donner said his country — where hundreds of thousands of tourists head to benefit from the famously relaxed policy on soft drugs such as marijuana — would have to "draw consequences" from an expected stricter EU drug policy.

"Drugs tourism should be fought," Donner said, adding that access to cafes selling joints could be barred for nonresidents of the Netherlands, including other EU citizens.

"That's an idea where we should be headed," Donner said. He did not elaborate on how a ban could be enforced.

Dutch officials said the government is setting up a pilot project in Maastricht where entry into

coffee shops would be restricted to those with special passes only.

The Dutch government has drafted tougher cannabis laws in an effort to reduce the number of coffee shops where marijuana is sold and to ban sales of cannabis to tourists in border areas.

There are around 780 coffee shops in the Netherlands, but half of them are in the three big cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. About 80 percent of municipalities do not permit the shops.

Despite heavy pressure and criticism from countries such as France and Sweden against the relaxed drug policy in the Netherlands, Dutch officials argue their policy has not resulted in a rise of users.

A government-funded study in May found the use of marijuana among Dutch youth declined somewhat in recent years.

The sale of small quantities of marijuana and hashish is tolerated. The drugs are sold at coffee shops like shots of whiskey at bars. The soft drugs, however, remain a controlled substance under Dutch law and technically its sale and use is illegal.

Government figures say the number of people who tried marijuana in the Netherlands ranked in the middle of a range of EU countries, the United States and Australia.

The Netherlands has taken a hard line against drugs such as cocaine and Ecstasy however, where possession is prosecuted.

IN THE STATES

House, Senate debate spending package

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans guided a \$388 billion domestic spending bill toward congressional passage on Saturday, hoping to climax lawmakers' lame-duck session by shipping President Bush a measure that clamps down on spending from education to clean energy projects.

In a rare Saturday session that leaders hoped would be their last business day of 2004, the House and Senate planned votes on the massive legislation — six weeks after the government's new budget year started. In what is becoming an annual rite on Capitol Hill, lawmakers and their staffs had just a few hours before votes were to be cast to sort through the complex bill, which combined with explanatory documents measured 14 inches tall.

"We intend to make sure we're not going to have any wild spending spree like we've had in the past," said Rep. Pete Sessions,

\$388 billion spending bill

WHAT'S INVOLVED: A \$388 billion spending bill for various federal programs and activities in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

SPENDING HALLOWDOWN: Spending for education would be less than 2 percent and environmental programs by 2.5 percent over last year, while nearly halving President Bush's foreign aid request for

countries that embrace democratic change.

FINAL HURDLES: Negotiators for Congress and the White House agreed to scrap efforts to block the administration from changing overtime-pay rules or limit the president's ability to contract out some jobs now held by civil servants.

—The Associated Press

R-Texas, as House debate began.

Many Democrats were expected to support the measure because of the many popular programs it finances. Even so, they complained that Republicans were forcing a bill through Congress that was too stingy to many programs and that contained buried provisions that might not have survived on their own.

"This process smells, and the odor wafts from sea to shining

sea," said Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla.

Final disputes were not swept away until shortly before midnight Friday, when lawmakers dropped an effort to block Bush's drive to shift some federal work to private companies. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, helped win an extra \$300 million for NASA, pushing the space agency's total over \$16 billion.

While the bill was loaded with thousands of projects for lawmakers' home districts, it most of all reflected the hardball realities of deficit politics. Congress' Republican majority balanced generous increases like a 12 percent boost for the FBI to \$5.2 billion and more aid for the refugee catastrophe in Sudan — with cuts in some programs and token increases for others.

Among the victims were Bush priorities like education, which would grow by less than 2 percent to nearly \$57 billion. The National Endowment for Democracy, which buttresses democratic institutions abroad, got \$60 million of the \$80 million he wanted, while his FutureGen program to promote clean-burning power plants got \$18 million — one-thirteenth of what the White House proposed.

To help pay for some of the bill's initiatives, a 0.83 percent cut was imposed on the agreed-upon level of every program.

Many Democrats were expected to grudgingly support the mea-

sure, realizing that continuing last year's spending levels would be even tighter and lack home-town projects.

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House GOP blocks intel overhaul bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans on Saturday blocked passage of legislation addressing the Sept. 11 Commission's terror-fighting recommendations to President Bush, but GOP leaders said they would press the effort later this year.

However, the failure to get an agreement in Congress' post-election session most likely means the legislation will die for the year.

"It's hard to reform. It's hard to make changes," Speaker Dennis Hastert said as House members left town after a rare weekend session.

But Hastert and other GOP leaders insist that the bill still has a chance since the House and Senate will not officially end their legislative year until December.

"Our members want us to continue, the speaker wants us to continue to negotiate and so does the Senate, so we're going to continue to negotiate and see if we can get a bill in December," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

DeLay said that Reps. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., and James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., had not agreed to a compromise reached earlier Saturday and he wanted their approval before the House moved forward.

Hastert said Hunter had concerns that shifting some intelligence operations from the Pentagon could hurt combat troops. Hastert said lawmakers want to make sure that our men and women who serve this country have the real-time intelligence that they need."

If lawmakers fail to reach an agreement this year, they will render most three months of hearings and negotiations that started with the commission's July release of its report studying the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Lawmakers would have to start from scratch next year — if they even pick up the issue again. With a new Congress taking office in January, unapproved bills expire and new lawmakers and committee leaders would have to consider any new legislation.

Lawmakers thought they had a deal Saturday.

"Give me a cigar," said the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan. He flashed a "V" for victory with his hand after signing off on the deal.

Administration officials also said the president supported the compromise.

The compromise, a bipartisan group that sharply criticized the performance of intelligence agencies, also endorsed the emerging compromise.

The deal "contains not only major reforms of the intelligence community, but significant measures to improve aviation and border security, and emergency preparedness and response," the commission's leaders, Thomas Keane and Lee Hamilton, said in a statement.

But critics led by Hunter said the bill would interfere with the chain of military command and potentially place troops at risk in combat. Other opponents, including Sensenbrenner, were unhappy that the bill did not go further to change immigration laws.

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Water pours out of four main tubes at the bottom of Glen Canyon Dam in Page, Ariz., in 1996. A new controlled flood at the Grand Canyon is set to begin Sunday in an effort to return natural sediment along the Colorado River to the canyon.

Grand Canyon to be flooded

BY BETH DEFALCO

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Environmentalists have complained for years that the Colorado River below a manmade dam was washing away natural sediment in the Grand Canyon, wiping away beaches and native fish and plants.

On Sunday, a simulated flood will allow scientists to see whether the Glen Canyon Dam — the root cause of many of the problems — can also help fix them.

Officials plan to release a controlled flood, opening four giant steel tubes at the base of the dam and sending a torrent down the

Colorado and into the canyon. An estimated 800,000 metric tons of sediment will be stirred up during its 90-hour run.

"We're trying to mimic the role of all that sediment that used to be there before the dam," said Dennis Fenn, director of the Southwest Biological Science Center, under the U.S. Interior Department. "Water that goes through the dam is clear, and sediment-free. The sediment is trapped behind the dam and doesn't come down like it used to."

Fenn said only about 7 percent of the historical sediment before the dam was built is still there.

Glen Canyon Dam, built 40 years ago upstream from the Grand Canyon, forever altered the landscape. Four of the canyon's eight native fish species have disappeared and prospects for the fifth, the endangered humpback chub, are grim.

Before Glen Canyon Dam's construction, natural flooding built up backwaters, eddies and sandbars with silt distributed from the Colorado's tributaries — landscape features within the river considered essential to native plant and fish species, including the humpback chub and the razorback sucker.

Officials have unleashed high flood waters before to see how the environment responds.

The Interior Department began studying the effects of the dam on the Grand Canyon in the early 1980s — and soon found beaches were washing away. In 1996, officials flooded the canyon with an 18-day water release, although only about five of those days produced high floods.

"We learned a lot from that study," Fenn said. He said a major problem was that scientists overestimated the sediment in the bed of tributary rivers that flow into the Colorado River below the dam. The initial high flood waters redeposited sediment in the Grand Canyon. But steady, lower flood waters began undoing the good, eroding the moved sediment.



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Tapes show LAX police ignoring calls

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City officials are calling for an investigation of Los Angeles International Airport police after hidden cameras captured several officers abandoning their posts and ignoring emergency radio calls.

"I am very concerned about airport police officers neglecting their duties," Mayor James K. Hahn wrote to Kim Day, executive director of the airport authority. "Security at the airport must not be compromised."

The camera footage broadcast Thursday by KCBS-TV appeared to show officers spending hours of their shifts away from the airport or staying at the airport but not working.

It also showed police chatting at a restaurant while ignoring radio calls about abandoned suitcases, and using a patrol car to pick up a child at school.

KCBS reporters followed officers for two months with hidden cameras.

The airport police force employs 300 officers.

Airport Police Chief Bernard J. Wilson said a department probe already is under way and two employees have been placed on administrative leave with pay.

"I will not tolerate misconduct," Wilson added. "And I won't allow the reputation of the airport police to be tarnished by a few."

Oldest man dies at 113

The Associated Press

DEWITT, N.Y. — Fred Hale Sr., documented as the world's oldest man, died Friday. He was 113 years old.

Hale died in his sleep Friday at The Nottingham in suburban Syracuse, while trying to recover from a bout of pneumonia, said his grandson, Fred Hale III. He was 12 days shy of his 114th birthday.

Born Dec. 1, 1890, Hale last month watched his lifelong favorite baseball team, the Boston Red Sox, win the World Series again after 86 years.

Hale retired 50 years ago as a railroad postal worker and beekeeper, his grandson said. He enjoyed gardening, canning fruits and vegetables and making homemade applesauce.

"He had a routine and he rarely broke it because anyone else was around," Hale III told The Post-Standard of Syracuse. "He didn't need a lot to be happy."

At age 95, Hale flew to Japan to visit a grandson who was in the U.S. While en route back to the United States, he stopped in Hawaii and even gave boogie-boarding a try.

At 103, Hale was still living on his own and shoveling the snow off his rooftop.

He was born in New Sharon,



Fred Hale Sr., right, and his son, Fred Hale Jr., watch the Boston Red Sox play in the 2004 World Series in Syracuse, N.Y. Fred Hale Sr., documented as the world's oldest man, died Friday at 113 years old.

Maine, when there were only 43 stars on the American flag. He married Flora Mooers in 1910.

Hale lived in his native Maine until he was 109, when he moved to the Syracuse area to be near his son, Fred Jr., now 82.

On March 5, 2004, the Guinness World Records acknowledged him as the oldest living man when Joan Riudavets Moll, of Spain, passed away at age 114.

Hale also was a Guinness record-holder for the oldest driver. At age 108, he still found slow

drivers annoying, Fred Hale III said.

Hale outlived his wife, who died in 1979, and three of his five children. He had nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

The world's oldest living man is now Hermann Dornemann, of Germany, age 111. There are 26 living women older than him, according to Gerontology Research Group.

Watch what you put in those holiday packages

BY JANE ROBERTS

Scraps Howard News Service

Even shippers need reminding to watch what goes in the hold in the peak holiday season.

The Federal Aviation Administration put out the word this week, with cautions for companies that routinely ship hazardous wastes and the passengers who unwittingly pack them.

If you're a passenger, forget trying to take sparklers or fireworks for the holidays. Ditto for bullets, large cans of hair spray or starch.

"It's not that starch is a hazardous substance," said Charlie White, FAA spokesman. "It's the size of the can."

The Transportation Security Administration allows 16-ounce cans.

Anything larger is going to be taken from your checked luggage, or worse, you're going to get a call to report to security, said John Barrett, manager of the FAA's Security and Hazardous Materials Field Office in Atlanta.

"It's going to make pre-boarding much more complicated," he said.

With stepped-up X-ray surveillance of all checked luggage, the

chances for delays or confiscations are higher this year. For passengers, the message is "contact your carrier to get packing instructions," White said.

"Bullets and ammo are actually legal," he said. "But the airlines want to know you have them."

Perfume, a flammable liquid, is legal in small bottles. But you're in trouble if they look like hand grenades.

For the 40 shippers who attended the meeting at a Tennessee Air National Guard base, the word is "know the regulations," said Marvin Sudduth, senior safety specialist at Memphis, Tenn.-based FedEx Corp.

"The shipper has the primary responsibility for offering items in compliance with the regulations," he said. "As the carrier, we have the responsibility for inspecting what is offered."

But as an industry, he said, "we've gone from knowing our aircraft could be targeted in a terrorist plot to not taking something that is shipped that could be used in terrorist action."

David Swartz, safety manager at Arkema, formerly ATRINA Chemicals in Memphis, called the meeting "a proactive way" for the FAA to interact with hazardous waste shippers.

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

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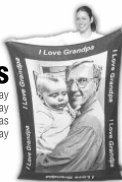
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Judy Blume: Heroine of children's fiction

Author recognized by National Book Foundation for her 30-year career

BY JENNIFER FREY
The Washington Post

STANDING at the window in Judy Blume's Central Park West apartment is like looking out at Fudge territory. Remember Fudge, Peter Hatcher's incorrigible little brother? Remember when Fudge fell off the jungle gym in Central Park while Sheila (otherwise known as "Sheila the Great") was supposed to be watching him? Remember what it felt like the moment you realized that characters in storybooks could be your friends? "Oh, it is Fudge's neighborhood," Blume says, taking in the view.

"And you know what's really funny? The 'Fudge' books were re-

ally set in my best friend from seventh grade — that's Mary, we're still best friends — in her building. She has always lived around the corner from here."

We are here because we finally have the excuse. Wednesday night in New York, at a ceremony announcing the winners of the National Book Awards, Blume received the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. This is a big-deal award, one previously given to the likes of Eudora Welty and Toni Morrison, John Updike and Arthur Miller. This is not the literary company Blume usually keeps.

Blume writes mainly for children, from early elementary school up through adolescence.

She writes for the fat girl who gets tortured by the popular kids, and for the quiet ones who painfully watch it go on.

She writes for the siblings who feel ignored once they get a younger brother or sister. She writes for kids going through divorce and kids who move and find themselves nervously starting at a new school. She writes for girls who are apprehensive about getting their periods and boys who are embarrassed by the physical side effects that come with their first sexual impulses.

For legions of young people — many of whom are now adults, given that she has been writing for more than 30 years — Blume is, at heart, a childhood friend. She is the author who knew our

world better than any other adult did. She is the one who told us secrets, who took the mystery out of the embarrassing stuff. She made us feel normal. She made us feel understood.

And so now we have seized on this award as an opportunity to meet the writer. To know her, as she has always seemed to have known us.

It is tempting to say she looks waiflike, so slight and delicate are her features, but there is an energy to her that makes that word seem inappropriate. Girlish, perhaps, is better. She's 66, yes, but Blume was never an actual age for us — other than, of course, the age of the characters she created. She must always be youthful.

"My son says that all I need to do now is sit back and collect awards," she says, and then laughs out loud at the thought that this somehow means she's ready to be put out to pasture. "That's not what I want my future to be."

Blume has movies to make now — earlier this year, she, along with her director son Lawrence and producer Jane Sturtz, signed a multi-picture deal with Walt Disney Studios to adapt her novels, starting with "Deenie." And Glamour magazine just made her a Woman of the Year.

Blume's work may be better known for popular appeal than critical acclaim; she's had mixed reviews, but her 23 books have sold more than 75 million copies worldwide. We snatched up the "Fudge" series and so desperately wanted more that we begged her to write another installment, "Double Fudge," just two years ago. At puberty, it was copies of "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" (about a girl worried about both her religious identification and her changing body) or "Then Again, Maybe I Won't" (about a boy coping with his budding sexuality) or, in many cases, both. "Forever" was the book




Author Judy Blume receives the 2004 National Book Foundation Medal for distinguished contribution to American letters — or maybe just for taking the mystery out of embarrassing stuff.

passed around among friends in their teens, each reading it surreptitiously under the bedcovers, sure that its subject matter — a girl's first experience with love and sex — was something parents would label contraband.

Others got the point: Blume made sense of things in simple, familiar terms. The world she wrote about felt real.

So let's just cut to the chase here, ask what we've always been dying to know: How did she know all that stuff about us? It's a complicated answer. Part of it, Blume says, is that she was raising her own kids during much of the time she was writing. She was, as she puts it, "very tuned into the school bus culture." Part of it, too, is her ability, when she writes, to retreat into the world she's writing about, to almost get lost in it. And part of it is simple: "We've all felt those emotions, haven't we?" she says.

"We've all been through it."



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Turkey farmers rush to meet holiday need

BY LISA RATHKE
The Associated Press

WESTFORD, Vt. — Judy Adams' daughter called from college in Boston to say she'd make it home by their Thanksgiving birds.

The family will spruce up a small shop next to the house and offer maple bread to customers who return year after year to pick up their Thanksgiving birds. They'll also ship out many of the thousands of turkeys they've raised over the last six months.

It's the height of the Thanksgiving rush for Vermont's roughly 14 turkey producers, and after 20 years of raising turkeys, Judy Adams isn't tired of it.

She likes to see them grow from the day-old poults that first arrive in May. She likes the curious chirping sounds they make as they roam around the barn across the street from her home. And she likes this time of year to pick up the birds she gets calls from customers and takes pride in every turkey she sells.

"We have an inspected processing facility. We see each bird as it goes through the plant and then to package the bird and hand it over to the customer," she said.

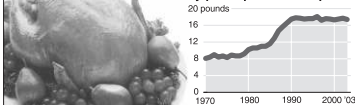
Turkey farming has grown 100

Thanksgiving's a day to stuff yourself on gobbly goods, a day to relax and watch the tube, and a day to feast on lots of food.

Talking turkey

As turkey consumption rises, the number of turkeys produced also continues to increase. Nearly two-thirds of U.S.-raised turkeys come from six states in 2004.

Turkey per capita consumption



Sources: Department of Agriculture; Census Bureau

Top producing states

2004 estimate, in millions

Minnesota	46.5
North Carolina	39.0
Arkansas	28.0
Missouri	21.5
Virginia	19.0
California	16.0

Protein consumption rank

2003 per capita consumption, in pounds

1. Chicken	81.5 lbs.
2. Beef	65.0
3. Pork	51.9
4. Turkey	17.4
5. Lamb and mutton	1.1

Other table staples

2004 production	658 million pounds of cranberries
2.2 billion bushels of wheat for bread, rolls and pie making	
2003 production	1.6 billion pounds of sweet potatoes
805 million pounds of pumpkins	

percent in Vermont in the last 10 years, said Dave Lane, deputy secretary of the Agency of Agriculture. Vermont now produces about 50,000 turkeys a year with Stonewall Farm in Orwell and Misty Knoll Turkey Farm in New Haven, raising the most.

The growth in the number of Vermont-raised turkeys may be due to consumers' desire to buy food locally, Lane said.

"There are some consumer

studies that are now showing the consumers are really interested in local, even above organic," he said.

The days before Thanksgiving are a social time of year for the Adams family, as local customers drop by to pick up their holiday birds.

Adams and her husband Dave and four children raise a couple of thousand turkeys a year on a family farm with horses, goats, geese, dogs, cats and dozens of

rabbits. They also raise chickens, sell compost, maple syrup and cut-your-own Christmas trees.

They have no full-time employees, just relatives and friends who help out.

A few towns south at Misty Knoll Farm, Rob Litch is working 17-hour days to get about 15,000 turkeys out for Thanksgiving. He has the help of about seven Jamaican seasonal workers, and eight other employees.

The key difference between his

free range turkeys and mass produced turkeys is taste, he said.

The turkeys, many of them roaming around in large pens outside, are fed an all grain diet, with no animal byproducts or antibiotics. The farm works with a turkey nutritionist to get the flavor right, he said.

Misty Knoll sells its turkeys for about \$2.09 a pound at the farm. They retail for \$2.19 and more at markets and health food stores. Adams Turkey Farm sells its birds for \$2.59 a pound.

Sneak peek at Macy's Parade

A model of the Spongobus Squarepants balloon, center, hangs in the Macy's Parade Studio in Hoboken, N.J., on Tuesday, as Jennifer Palmer, left, leads a tour of the design studio for school children. The parade kicks off Thanksgiving Day in New York.

AP

Santa Train brings Christmas to rural kids

Kingsport Times-News

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — Susan Kidd, 64 and the oldest of 11 siblings, remembers waking well before dawn on the Saturdays before Thanksgiving when she was growing up in Scott County, Va., near eastern Tennessee.

In fact, many of those mornings she left the house before daylight and headed for the railroad tracks — looking for Christmas.

Her family lived about a mile and a half from the Clinchfield Railroad tracks at Dunganon, and Kidd was the first to see the first time she saw the Santa Train pass through town.

Kidd, who lives in Atlanta now, was among dozens of volunteers Wednesday who helped sort, mix, box and load more than 15 tons of foodstuffs, toys and other goodies destined to be thrown from the Santa Train this weekend.

Kidd said she has witnessed all but four of the train's 61 runnings — Saturday will be its 62nd.

"We didn't have TV or newspaper advertisements

to tell us a schedule," Kidd said. "So we didn't know a specific time it was supposed to pass our area. We didn't want to take any chances, so we'd get there by daylight."

Sometimes a freight train or two would clip by while they were waiting. But Kidd said she and the other children knew when the right train came into view because it moved slower and its whistle sounded — to them at least — a particular way. A special way.

The Santa Train began in the early 1940s by the Kingsport Merchants Association to thank those who shopped in the city and lived along the 110-mile route.

At first, Santa's treats to children — tossed from the back of a regular-schedule passenger train — consisted primarily of hard candy or a pencil or writing tablet and were paid for by the chamber.

Toys soon joined the mix, and in those early years there were children whose only Christmas gift came from the Santa Train.

Now gifts and cash donations pour in year-round from across the country.

Some schools ban homemade goods

BY LOUISE CHU
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The days of sending homemade cookies, brownies or cakes to school to celebrate a student's birthday or a holiday may be over.

Schools across the country are banning such sweets from their classrooms. Some are doing it as a way to curb childhood obesity. Others cite food allergies or even contamination.

In Georgia, such policies are being considered after two recent incidents where students brought baked goods to school and some of their classmates ended up in the hospital.

Two 13-year-old girls were arrested for bringing a cake to class Tuesday that was laced with bleach and other substances, which sickened 12 students at the middle school in Marietta, an Atlanta suburb. Last month, eight students — ages 14 to 17 — were rushed to the hospital from Gliscomb Consolidated School in Gliscomb, 110 miles southeast of Atlanta, when becoming violently ill after eating parts of a large homemade cookie brought by a student.

Cobb County schools, which includes the one in Marietta, already have a ban in place against classroom parties, which school officials instituted several years ago, in part to curb the sharing of potentially questionable snacks.

"We recommend strongly that students and staff not share food

of any kind. That's just not a good idea, especially when you don't know where food is coming from," school system spokesman Jay Dillon said.

In the wake of the poisoned cake incident, school officials will likely strengthen their recommendations against food sharing, but are hesitant to institute an all-out ban.

"It's hard to institute a ban on that type of thing because it requires an enforcement of it, and that's a tough thing to enforce," Dillon said. "We feel that communicating to parents that students shouldn't share food at schools is the best way to handle this type of thing."

A ban on homemade baked goods is expected to be discussed by Gliscomb school officials at the end of the year when they review their policies, principal Sally Garrett said Thursday. In the Gliscomb case, no questionable substances were found in the cookie after thorough testing by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. However, the rural school's 500-plus students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade already have been ordered to be careful with homemade foods.

It's up to each school to come up with its own policies on food, said Kirk Englehardt, spokesman for the state Department of Education. "In this area, we don't have anything that governs outside food being brought to school," he said, referring to any possible statewide rules.

Real-life ads aimed at helping smokers quit

'Bob Quits' campaign follows story of one New York smoker

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — There were a lot of on-edge people Thursday — about 8 million of them if estimates are correct — who tried to quit smoking as part of the Great American Smokeout.

For inspiration, a reality TV-inspired media campaign launched Wednesday follows a smoker as he quits, showing his progress in snippets. But it's not pretty, at least not at first.

"It's constant wanting to hurt something or hurt somebody," says a clenched-fisted Ethan Teicher on day one.

"I feel," the sheet metal worker from Queens says, "like a nerve."

The "Bob Quits" campaign, developed by the Washington-based American Legacy Foundation, has aired in New York City

and Washington over the past year. The Buffalo launch marks the first time the program hits the road. The name Bob is meant to invoke Teicher's "everyman" quality.

"I've been eating cinnamon sticks and spitting on people," says Teicher, shown outside a job site with hard-hatted co-worker "Donnie" snoring at the display. Then Donnie comes in sympathy with Teicher, and his support becomes one of the keys to Teicher's success.

Television and radio spots are supplemented by outdoor advertising on buses and elsewhere, with messages such as "Quit, Bob, Quit" and "Voyeurs wanted." The latter invites people to watch the entire monthlong struggle on a Web site www.bobquits.com, which also features Teicher's journal entries.

"Today I ran with the kids up to the

car," the father of three writes on day 21. "I wasn't huffing and puffing like I normally did. So I think some changes are taking place. Maybe my lungs are improving already."

Dr. K. Michael Cummings from Roswell Park Cancer Institute, a partner in the Buffalo campaign, said smokers should easily relate to "Bob."

"It's not the preachy doctor like me telling you you've got to quit smoking," he said.

"Tobacco is one of the toughest addictions that anyone can combat. It's tougher than heroin," said Martina Hone, American Legacy Foundation spokeswoman. "Everybody in this country has figured out how to struggle to lose 10 pounds... You know how hard it is to lose weight. But because most people in this country don't smoke, you really have no idea what

How to quit smoking

The Associated Press

In 2000, 70 percent of smokers said they wanted to quit and 5 percent succeeded in quitting for three months or more. On average, former smokers made eight to 11 attempts before succeeding.

Strategies for quitting smoking:

- Get counseling.
- Use medication such as the nicotine patch, gum or nicotine inhaler.
- Enlist the support of family, friends and co-workers.

Source: American Legacy Foundation

a difficult addiction this is."

The foundation was created out of the landmark 1998 tobacco settlement. The Great American Smokeout, which started 28 years ago, challenges people to quit smoking for a lifetime by starting with a single day.



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Hero takes the hit

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man died in San Francisco after he pushed a companion out of the way of a car being driven by a man alleged to be a drunken driver, then was struck by the car himself, police said.

Manmeet Singh, 21, died Sunday at San Francisco General Hospital, about 15 hours after he was hit. Singh was crossing the intersection with a woman whom he pushed out of the way before he was hit, police spokeswoman Maria Oropeza said. Police arrested Gordon Wong, 21, and booked him on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence and failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Whale passes on

MA WOODS HOLE — A beluga whale that captured the fancy of boaters and divers with his playful antics last summer apparently died from natural causes, marine mammal researchers said Tuesday.

The whale nicknamed POCO was taken to a laboratory for examination after washing ashore on a mud flat Monday in South Portland, Maine.

A preliminary examination showed the whale's lymph nodes were larger than normal and that tissues surrounding his esophagus were swollen, suggesting he died from an infection, said Dr. Larry Dunn of the Mystic Aquarium. The 9- to 9-foot light gray beluga whale made headlines because of his playful nature, rubbing against boats, divers and swimmers.

Money laundering, sort of

LA GREENSBURG — How do you dry out \$67,380 in stolen cash recovered from a beaver dam? Very carefully, as St. Helena Parish deputies found out.

First, the soggy bills were spread out in the vault at the Bank of Greensburg. But they started to smell — so badly that Maj. Michael Martin can't help wrinkling his nose just talking about it.

Then, the dough was dumped into one of the large dryers at the parish jail. But the muddy moolah simply clumped together. That, though, was easy enough to solve. Adding an old pair of tennis shoes broke up the wet wads of bills.

Finding the proper dryer setting, though, took a time or two to get right. "Regular dry" turned some bills in the first batch "a little too crispy," Martin said. The next three and a half loads on "permanent press" came out warm and fluffy, but still slightly muddy.

Deputies found two bags of cash stuck in a beaver dam. One had been torn open and some of the cash had apparently been woven into the dam with sticks and other materials by beavers.

Porn dismissal upheld

IA DES MOINES — The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals was justified in firing an employee for allegedly e-mailing pornographic pictures to colleagues, the Iowa Public Employment Relations Board ruled.

Robert Woods, who was fired in 2002, argued at his appeal hearing that his e-mails were "adult humor." The board noted that in one five-month period Wood had sent or received at least 25 inappro-



private e-mails.

South Beach for kids

FL KISSIMMEE — Lunch these days for about 2,700 grade schoolers is low-fat and low-carb — a la South Beach Diet. The menu switch is part of a children's health study by Miami Beach cardiologist Arthur Agatston, author of the best-selling South Beach Diet books. If the diet helps students maintain a healthy weight, the study may be expanded to other school districts.

Students have been measured, weighed and fitted with pedometers to count each step they take and encourage them to keep active. The program at Kissimmee Charter Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Partin Settlement Elementary and P.M. Wells Charter Elementary ends in May.

'Who's Who' in prison

VT ST. ALBANS — A teacher who was sentenced in August to up to seven years in prison for having an affair with a female student has been listed as one of America's best teachers.

Richard Bugbee Jr. of St. Albans is one of the 134,000 teachers featured in the current edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." The annual list is compiled and issued by Educational Communications Inc. in Austin,

Texas. The company touts its listing as "among our nation's best and most respected teachers."

Teachers are nominated by current or former students listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students," "Who's Who Among American High School Students-Sports Edition," or "The National Dean's List." Teachers also make the list "because they are held in the highest regard by their communities and peers," according to the company's Web site.

The project coordinator, who only identified herself as Ellen, said she could not release the name of the student who nominated Bugbee or the date of the nomination because of privacy issues.

Race track fuels debate

CT PLAINFIELD — Plans for an indoor, 140,000-seat auto racing track are drawing opposition from three citizens' groups.

One group questions job-creation estimates for the \$343 million project, saying they're inaccurate because the developer hasn't received commitments from major racing organizations. A University of Connecticut study predicts the project, which includes a hotel and retail stores, would create up to 8,750 jobs by 2007.

Hospitable cabbies?

MI ROMULUS — Southeastern Michigan tourism officials have started hospitality training classes for cab drivers, waiters, bartenders and others. More than 100 cab drivers at Detroit Metropolitan Airport are the first to take the four-hour class.

Detroit hosts baseball's All-Star game in 2005, the 2006 Super Bowl and the 2009 college basketball Final Four.

Cops hold meeting

CA LOS ANGELES — More than 15,000 law enforcement officers are in town this week attending the 111th annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The officers will attend panels on forensics, terrorism prevention and funding issues during the five-day event. They will also test products displayed by more than 650 vendors.

Poison prank

GA ATLANTA — The father of one of two 13-year-old girls accused of serving poisoned cake to about a dozen students said Thursday he and his daughter were sorry it happened.

"It was a horrible prank that went too far and a lot of people have suffered," the father said. The man asked that he not be identified by name to protect his daughter.

The girls were held on assault charges Wednesday, a day after handing out the cornbread cake at East Cobb Middle School.

Lab tests showed the icing contained an expired prescription drug, bleach, clay and hot-pepper sauce, police said. Eleven students who ate it were treated at a hospital and released.

The father said the two girls had been bored Tuesday and began playing around in the kitchen.

"It was not a kind or malicious intent," he said. "They thought it would be funny. They know it's not funny now."



Girl Scouts from Troop 3354 of Kaufman, Texas, get a close up look at a portrait of first lady Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of President John Quincy Adams at The Women's Museum in Dallas.



Mount St. Helens experiences a minor steam eruption in Washington State as viewed from the Johnson Ridge Observatory in Mount St. Helens, Wash. At right is a tree toppled by the volcano's massive 1980 eruption.



President of the Punsuattaway Groundhog Club, William Cooper, shows off Punsuattaway Phil to second-graders from Mountain View Elementary in Harrisburg, Pa. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission used the groundhog as a way to discuss how to prepare for winter.



Grand re-opening

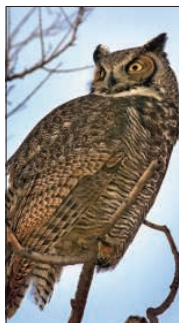
An atrium rises at the center of the renovated Museum of Modern Art in New York with the sculpture "Broken Oblique" by Barnett Newman and Monet's "Waterlilies" on the second floor. MoMA was to re-open to the public Saturday.



Tender loving care Garland County Humane Society members Mary Ann Taft, left, and Ray Ann Reynolds feed some oats to one of several dozen malnourished horses reportedly under the care of Hot Springs trainer Glenn Hild at a training center in Bonnerdale, Ark.



Ready to roar again Morgan Kibby, a conservation technician, steam cleans the lion named "Patience" on the steps of the New York Public Library along Fifth Avenue. The 93-year-old marble sculptures are fully restored.



Just a hoot A great horned owl sits perched atop a tree waiting and carefully scanning for prey, near Gifford, Mont.



Long stretch Adults participate in a dance class to get or stay fit, at Dance Studio No. 1 in Los Angeles.

Illegal smokes seized

NY NEW YORK — A cargo plane carrying 150,000 cartons of illegal cigarettes was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport, authorities said.

Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms seized the cigarettes as part of a nationwide effort to halt sales of contraband tobacco. Buyers of illegal cigarettes usually hope to avoid city, state and federal tobacco taxes, the ATF said.

The cargo airline, which was not identified, was cooperating with the government and no charges were expected to be filed.

Bizarre Wal-Mart customer

TN KNOXVILLE — A man accused of stroking strangers' buttocks at a Wal-Mart racked up three felony convictions for the bizarre incident.

Cesar David Cruz pleaded guilty before Knox County Criminal Court Judge Mary Beth Leibowitz to three counts of sexual battery.

Neither Cruz nor his attorney, Mike Whalen, offered an explanation for the Oct. 23 incident that landed Cruz in jail.

According to court records, Cruz may have spent up to seven hours at the store before his alleged crimes were reported.

He was accused of stroking the buttocks of a 15-year-old girl and at least two other women and then waiting to watch their reactions.

Family members stabbed

CA UNION CITY — A man is in jail facing three charges of attempted murder, while his mother, father and sister are recovering from multiple stab wounds from his apparent attack in the family's home.

Police were summoned to the home after a neighbor reported two women running from the house, bloodied and screaming hysterically.

Janice Estanque, 22, with wounds to her neck, left a trail of blood as she ran down the street knocking on five different doors before someone finally called 911.

While paramedics attended to the women, officers were alerted to the home by a man screaming that someone was trying to kill him.

The desperate man was Eifren Estanque, 32, who was named under his son Jeffrey Estanque, 20, on the front porch as his son tried to stab him with a butcher knife, said Union City Police Lt. Kelly Musgrove.

Police jolted the younger Estanque in the arm with two hits from a Taser gun. Capt. Brian Foley told reporters that Jeffrey Estanque had been depressed lately.

Heroic bus riders

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Passengers stopped a charter bus from plunging nearly 200 feet off a bridge after the driver collapsed, apparently from a heart attack.

The bus was near the top of the Sunshine Skyway bridge when Thomas Grove, 61, fell out of his seat, passengers and authorities said.

It slammed into the 3-foot concrete wall, which blocks vehicles

from tumbling into Tampa Bay. Three of the five passengers jumped out of their seats and ran toward the front.

The passengers — all unharmed — called 911 and Amtrak, which uses the bus to shuttle passengers from Fort Myers to Tampa. They spent another 10 minutes in the bus because they didn't know how to open the door.

Two nurses driving by stopped to help, performing CPR on the driver. Grove, of Pinellas Park, died within hours at a hospital.

Early reports suggested he may have had a heart attack, authorities said.

Political disputes

NY LAKE PLACID — A mayoral candidate here known for walking around town with a parrot named Arturo Tortilla on his shoulder has been charged with felony burglary, accused of stealing an acquaintance's Dirt Devil vacuum.

Michael Sullivan, 58, was released from the Essex County Jail after posting \$500 bail, said Sheriff Henry Hommes.

Sullivan spent two nights at a vacant home owned by Christopher McGill, police told the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

But on the second night, McGill left a note for Sullivan that read, "Two nights is too many, three nights and you're out." The letter also warned the man that if he stayed a third night, it would be trespassing, police said.

Later, McGill, discovered his vacuum missing. After finding a green feather belonging to Sullivan's parrot, McGill determined Sullivan not only ignored his warning, but made off with his Dirt Devil, authorities said.

Sullivan was charged with second-degree burglary, according to police.

College vaccinations

KS TOPEKA — Starting next year, more than 4,800 students living in group housing at the University of Kansas must be vaccinated against meningitis or sign a waiver, university officials announced. The policy will apply to students living in dormitories, smaller scholarship halls or an apartment complex operated by the university.

Naughty firefighters

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An internal complaint about an adult entertainment program played in a San Francisco International Airport firehouse has led officials to quietly tell firefighters that such entertainment is not appropriate and that anyone bringing it in could face discipline.

High-ranking departmental officers have been meeting with firefighters in recent days after a firefighter told Chief Joanne Hayes-White about at least two firefighters watching the adult program in a common area of the station Oct. 28.

In the past, department officials have come under fire for failing to crack down on allegations of sexual harassment and drinking in the firehouses. Recently, firefighters have been brought up on disciplinary charges related to drinking and sexual harassment.

Stories and photos from wire reports

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 House of Mouse	"Sense and Sensibility"	Movie *** "Going to the Sun" (2004, Drama) Andrew Lawrence, A blind teenager becomes a high-school wrestler.	Stargate SG-1 Daniel discovers a human-god old hybrid.	Headline News	PGA Golf WGC World Cup - Third Day, From Seville, Spain. (Taped)	Latin Lifestyles	Stargate SG-1 Daniel discovers a human-god old hybrid.
9:30 Animaniacs	(31) Movie *** "Hells" (1992, Biography) Jack Nicholson, Danny DeVito, Amanda Assante. Based on the life of her leader James F. Hollis.	Headline News	Headline News	America's Black Forum	Urban Style	Headline News	Headline News
10:00 E! 60+ Eddy	Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Headline News	Headline News	The Chris Matthews Show	Fantasy Camp	Headline News	Headline News
10:30 Filmore (E)	Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Headline News	Headline News	ESPNNews	Rock on the Road	Headline News	Headline News
11:00 Out There	Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Headline News	Headline News	Movie *** "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (2002, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson. A malvolent force threatens the students at Hogwarts.	Radical Sabatini	Movie *** "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (2002, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson. A malvolent force threatens the students at Hogwarts.	Headline News
11:30 Planet's Funniest Animals	(37) Movie *** "Jackie Brown" (1997, Drama) Pam Grier, Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Forster. A fearless fight against gets in trouble with the law.	Headline News	Headline News	CNN Presents	College Gameway	The Suez Orman Show	Headline News
12:00 Nick News Special Edition	Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter	Celebrity Golf Showdown	Headline News
12:30 Happy Days	Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
13:00 Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Movie *** "Mall to the Chief" (1999, Comedy) Randy Quaid, Holland Tait.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
14:00 Movie *** "Mulan" (1998, Fantasy) Voices of Ming-Na Wen, Lea Salonga	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
14:30 Wren, Lea Salonga	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:00 Aashli Real Monsters	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:30 Rocket Power	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:00 Kratts' Creatures "Wild Dogs" (E)	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
18:30 America's Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
19:00 Dilmore Girls "A Family Matter"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
20:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:00 American Dreams "The Long Goodbye"	(38) Movie *** "She's All That" (1989) Freddie Prinze Jr. A high-school student wagers he can remake a picture in his own image.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
21:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
22:00 Home Improvement	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his lover's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Lover of Love"	Movie *** "The Wood" (1999) Don Cheadle, Kevin Spacey, Kevin Kline. A man who is a	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2004

00:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
00:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
1:00 Kratts' Creatures "Wild Dogs" (E)	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
1:30 America's Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
2:00 Dilmore Girls "A Family Matter"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
2:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
3:00 American Dreams "The Long Goodbye"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
3:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
4:00 Home Improvement	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
4:30 Touched by an Angel "Lover of Love"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
5:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
5:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
6:00 Kratts' Creatures "Wild Dogs" (E)	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
6:30 America's Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
7:00 Dilmore Girls "A Family Matter"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
7:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
8:00 American Dreams "The Long Goodbye"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
8:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
9:00 Home Improvement	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
9:30 Touched by an Angel "Lover of Love"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
10:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
10:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
11:00 Kratts' Creatures "Wild Dogs" (E)	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
11:30 America's Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
12:00 Dilmore Girls "A Family Matter"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
12:30 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
13:00 American Dreams "The Long Goodbye"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
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14:00 Home Improvement	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
14:30 Touched by an Angel "Lover of Love"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
15:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:00 Kratts' Creatures "Wild Dogs" (E)	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
16:30 America's Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
17:00 Dilmore Girls "A Family Matter"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his wife's family.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News
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Q Can you tell me if Sophia Loren ever makes public appearances? And does she live with her husband or alone? — **Kathy M., Dahlgren, Ga.**

A Still drop-dead gorgeous at 70, Sophia makes occasional appearances at film festivals and premieres. She lives in Geneva and Los Angeles with Carlo Ponti, 91, her husband of 38 years. And she just finished shooting "La Casa del General," an Italian-language film directed by Lina Wertmüller. The movie may come to theaters in America if it finds a buyer, but there's none at this time.

Q I attended a screening of "Callas Forever" and wondered if Jeremy Irons plays a real person from the great opera diva's life. — **John Thomas, Cleveland**

A "No, but my role is based in part on [director] Franco Zeffirelli, who worshipped Maria's talent," says Irons, 56. "I chose to play the character as gay to explore his nonsexual friendship with Maria." "Callas Forever" — starring Fanny Ardant as the diva, who died in 1977 — opens state-side this month. Irons is now in Venice shooting a Casanova tale (still untitled) starring Heath Ledger. He previously was there with Al Pacino to film "The Merchant of Venice," which opens next month.

Q This month's election made me wonder: Whatever happened to Amy Carter? — **Irene Brungaber, Pittsburgh**

A Carter, 37, lives in Atlanta with Hugo, 5, her son by James Wentzel, whom she wed in 1996. An artist, Amy illustrated two books by her father, "Jimmy: The Little Baby Snoodle-Fleejer" and "Christmas in Plains."

Q Will Robin and Barry Gibb record again as the Bee Gees without their brother Maurice, who died last year? — **Lorraine Bybee, Modesto, Calif.**

A No, but a compilation album, "Bee Gees Number Ones," came out this month. After "Mo" died at 53 from an intestinal blockage, twin brother Robin recorded a solo album and began a European tour. Barry, 58, initially went into hibernation but has emerged to write and produce two songs for British pop star Cliff Richard.

Q Olympic gold medalist Oksana Baiul crashed her Mercedes in 1997 while intoxicated. Has she quit drinking? — **Michael Anderson, Albany, N.Y.**

A "I spent 3½ months in rehab," Oksana, 27, tells us. "Now I do no drinking at all." But she still skates and will compete in "Ice Wars" early next month on CBS. She also launched a line of skating apparel with her fiancé, Gene Sunik, 31. The couple live in New Jersey with their three Chihuahuas. The dogs don't skate.

Q Colin Farrell displayed a terrific singing voice in the film "InterMission." Does he plan to pursue a music career? — **C.S., Portland, Maine**

A Not likely. The hard-partying Irish lad is too busy with his day job (being a movie star) and night job (drinking, smoking, seducing women) for a recording career. But his version of "I Fought the Law" is on the "InterMission" soundtrack. You can see Farrell, 28, in Oliver Stone's "Alexander," opening on overseas buses in two weeks.



Chick magnet Colin Farrell adds singing, as well as acting, to his workday talents.



"Law and Order" actor Jesse L. Martin, who plays detective Ed Green, has onstage singing and dancing on his résumé.



Once Martha Stewart's prison reality experience ends, she's got a reality television show in the works.

Q What does Martha Stewart plan to do when she gets out of the slammer next year? — **Natalie D., Dayton, Ohio**

A Begin developing a reality TV show with producer Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Apprentice"), probably with contestants vying for her favor.

Q New York-based "Law & Order" often casts from the Broadway talent pool. Does Jesse L. Martin have a stage background? — **Donald Bennett, Nyack, N.Y.**

A Yes. The handsome star made his Broadway debut in 1993 in "Timon of Athens." He later originated the role of Tom Collins, the philosophy teacher with HIV, in the 1996 Tony-winning musical "Rent." NBC persuaded Martin, 35, to sing again in a musical version of "A Christmas Carol," airing state-side next Sunday.

Q Does director Quentin Tarantino have plans to make "Kill Bill Vol. 3"? — **J. Mack, Reading, Conn.**

A Tarantino, 41, tells us he'd love to make a third "Kill Bill," this time from the perspective of the daughter of Vivica A. Fox's character when she is old enough for revenge. Since she's only 4 when her mom dies, it probably will be at least 15 years.



Los Angeles Times

Director Quentin Tarantino is seriously considering a third "Kill Bill" chapter.

Tarantino is now directing a segment of "Sin City" and will appear in "The Muppets' Wizard of Oz."

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Don't let abortion dominate Dayton (Ohio) Daily News

OK, the time is long past due for a discussion of the presidential election of 2008.

Wouldn't it be something — interesting, fun, cool, something — if, next time around, the Republicans put up a candidate who favors abortion rights and the Democrats put somebody who opposes them? The government spends trillions of dollars and presides over a country of extraordinary complexity and diversity. And yet one social issue is at the center in determining people's politics.

Candidates fit molds, slide along grooves. More focus is put on such simple, divisive issues as abortion, religion and gay marriage, as opposed to policy decisions that will have more impact on the well being of the country and world.

Somewhere the American body politic has to dig itself out of these grooves.

Perhaps the beginning is for thoughtful citizens to decide that abortion is not the be-all-and-end-all issue.

Put Sudan solution on map Los Angeles Times

The Sudanese government has a bizarre understanding of what peace means. After earlier leaders signed a cease-fire agreement with rebels in the western territory of Darfur, government troops stormed refugee camps there, beat inhabitants and forced them to leave. The death toll in Darfur is now estimated at 50,000 and will keep rising without stronger action from the international community.

The U.N. Security Council met in Nairobi last week with Sudan a major topic. Diplomats ... should take tougher action against the Khartoum government, such as an embargo on Sudanese oil, unless it stops beating and starving people in Darfur.

The United States and other countries have helped with peacekeeping logistics, including flying African Union troops to Darfur. But the number of peacekeepers must be increased quickly. The current 500 are overstretched. ... Credible threats of sanctions against the Sudanese government and the rebels, plus additional international soldiers and police, can increase the likelihood of an end to the killings and forced relocations.

Loyalty at top of Bush's list The Forum, Fargo, N.D.

The real story about last week's changes in President Bush's Cabinet is the Cabinet's remarkable stability during his first term. Turnover has been minimal when measured against the Cabinet churn of other presidents during a first term.

What the national press is describing as "shake-up" is, in effect, expected change among the president's top advisers. The fact that most of his key Cabinet secretaries ... have been on the job for nearly all of the president's four years is a remarkable record that speaks to the president's ability to assemble and hold a loyal team.

Further confirming the strength of the president's team is that Cabinet replacements named this far have been White House insiders. ...

President Bush plays a team game in which he is the team captain. Stray from the playbook and expect to get the boot.

Powell, of course, could not be booted in the way [Paul] O'Neill was [from treasury] because the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff enjoyed such a huge, enormous credibility and popularity among Americans.



CHANGE AT STATE...

Nonetheless, the Cabinet news is not a shake-up. It's a shuffle, of sorts, that merely underscores the value this president puts on loyalty, even at the expense of constructive and sometimes necessary disagreement.

Tasers: A shock to the system Florida Today, Melbourne, Fla.

Police officers must make split-second judgments in volatile situations.

But shooting children with Taser stun guns — except perhaps in the most dire cases — is unacceptable. In the past two weeks, however, police in Miami-Dade County used stun guns to subdue two children.

Tasers have their place in law enforcement as an alternative to deadly force, but must not become the option of first resort when less-risky intervention tactics exist. Considered a nonlethal tool, Tasers deliver a highly painful 50,000-volt charge. Their use has possibly contributed to a number of deaths, and their safety never has been adequately supported by independent studies.

Most important, we know virtually nothing about how they might adversely affect children, who are quite different physically from adults.

The Miami-Dade Police Department should issue a moratorium on using Tasers on children until the two cases are thoroughly investigated and officers are retrained.

Backing wind power is a breeze The Columbian, Vancouver, Wash.

With the mighty Columbia River funneling about 90,000 cubic feet per second into the gorge, many Northwesters have difficulty imagining another natural source of energy. But the same force that blows hats off their heads is becoming more popular as the search intensifies in this region for cleanly produced power. ...

La Center inventor Chris Crowley is negotiating with PacificCorp for a deal to build 63 gigantic wind turbines on the hills overlooking the river west of Arlene, Ore. ... We wish Crowley and the other companies well in their business ventures, because this trend will lead to cleaner air. ...

We're not saying these wind turbines won't be noticed. ... But whatever distraction wind turbines may present (some folks consider them fun to watch, almost enchant-

ing) is certainly worth the advantages provided by wind energy. Already across America, wind turbines are producing enough pollution-free energy to serve more than 1 million homes.

So bring on the steady whoop-whoop-whoops of wind turbines. The time is ripe for exploring for producing energy by burning coal and gas. Power producers increasingly will have no choice but to ... start reaching up, to harness the free and clean wind.

Theorists don't have a prayer Rocky Mountain News, Denver

Any hope that this year's brutal political rhetoric would diminish after Nov. 2 has been utterly dashed. ... Supposedly serious people have actually begun to worry — or at least to say they worry — about the rise of theory in America.

Yes, that is the incendiary word — anguished commentators have used — "theory" — in publications as mainstream as USA Today and The Miami Herald, not to mention more partisan enclaves such as The Village Voice and Salon.com. Writing in the New York Times, Gary Hart joined the hysterical herd, warning of "the disturbing tendency to insert theoretical principles into the vision of America's role in the world." Puritans elsewhere lamented the endorsement of "an extremist Christian regime" or predicted the descent into "another dark age."

Finally, those worried about theory should keep in mind that the actual percentage of voters who identified moral values as their top concern was roughly one-fifth. Most voted for Bush, but so did most voters who favor tax relief and who see the war in Iraq as critical for U.S. security. It is no sense to claim that a horde of religious zealots put Bush over the top.

'Ryan's' hope dashed by execs The Des Moines (Iowa) Register

Some ABC affiliates, including WOI-TV in Des Moines and KCAU-TV in Sioux City, chose not to air "Saving Private Ryan" on Veterans Day. The World War II movie contains violence and foul language, broadcasters feared would result in sanctions from the Federal Communications Commission, which tightened regulations and upped indecency fines after the infamous Janet Jackson Super Bowl halftime show.

Now some Americans can't watch an Oscar-winning war movie on TV.

Broadcasters have been upset over new regulations for months.

Pulling a popular war movie on Veterans Day provides the perfect opportunity to turn public opinion against the FCC crackdown. The regulations are absurd.

Americans already tune in nightly to cable television not regulated by the government. A satellite dish picks up hundreds of channels outside the reach of the FCC. Bad language, sexually graphic material and extreme violence are as close as the next click of the remote. Regulating a few channels and fining a few broadcasters won't ensure wholesome television for Americans.

Programming decisions should be left to broadcasters. And their decisions should be based on public reaction.

As always, the best form of censorship is the off button.

Powell departure ends debate The Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y.

As expected, Secretary of State Colin Powell is leaving the Bush administration. He was one of four Cabinet members whose pending departures were disclosed Monday.

Without question, Powell's exit represents the biggest loss to both the administration and the nation.

He epitomized statesmanship, a quality that is becoming increasingly rare among government leaders. In fact, his respected stature made all the difference for many who were unsure about supporting the American invasion of Iraq. They surmised: If Powell, who oversaw the Persian Gulf War, believed there were weapons of mass destruction in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, that was good enough. ...

Now it could happen that [Vice President Dick] Cheney and [Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld, both hawks, will get their way at the State Department without a fight. That's a scary.

Though Powell, a military man for 35 years, was a good soldier, he also could be counted on to speak his mind. That's a tribute good leaders should value from their team members. Even if Powell wound up on the losing side, he at least forced consideration of a different point of view.

The administration and the American people will miss Colin Powell.

YOUR MONEY



Shoppers Dulce Villarreal, left, and her friend Maria Melendez, both of Tustin, Calif., do their back-to-school shopping at MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana in August. Last year, for the first time, cash and checks accounted for less than half of in-store purchase payments, according to a study. It also shows debit-card transactions increased from 21 percent five years ago to 31 percent last year.

Debit cards: Time well-spent?

BY MARY ANN MILBOURN

Orange County (Calif.) Register

When Palmerin Perez goes shopping, she doesn't leave home without it, but "it" isn't the American Express card.

Perez takes her debit card to pay for everything she buys, including the sweater she bought this month at Westfield MainPlace mall in Santa Ana, Calif., and cannot imagine paying any other way.

"It takes [the money] directly out of my checking account," said Perez, 30, of Union City, N.J., who is visiting in Orange County. "I never have to worry about credit."

Perez is one of millions of Americans, especially younger consumers, who increasingly favor debit cards over other forms of payment.

A recent Harris Poll conducted for Visa USA showed when it comes to buying an article of fall clothing, such as a sweater or jeans, nearly half of the 1,562 people surveyed said they were most likely to use a debit card. Among 18- to 34-year-olds such as Perez, 54 percent said they would use debit cards.

"That's what we're seeing more of the board," said Seth Eisen, a Visa spokesman. "More and more people are using debit cards for purchases."

Debit cards, which electronically deduct money directly from a consumer's checking account, are just one more example of how modern technology is changing the way people handle their money.

Fastest payment method

Which payment type gets customers through the checkout line fastest?

Payment method	Age 18-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55+	All ages
Cash	39%	47%	49%	58%	50%
Debit card	38%	38%	30%	20%	29%
Credit card	18%	10%	13%	13%	15%
Check	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%	8%	5%

Preferred payment method

If you were buying a single article of clothing, which payment methods would you be most likely to use?

Payment method	Age 18-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55+	All ages
Debit card	54%	53%	48%	37%	48%
Credit card	17%	24%	23%	37%	28%
Cash	23%	18%	19%	16%	20%
Check	5%	5%	10%	10%	3%
Other*	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%

*Gift card, travelers checks, etc.

© 2004 KRT
Source: Harris Interactive poll for Visa USA of 1,562 U.S. adults.
Sept. 1-15, 2004. 3 percent margin of error.
Graphic: The Orange County Register

Note: Figures may not total 100 percent due to rounding

Because of their convenience and widespread acceptance by merchants, debit cards are rapidly becoming the new cash. In fact, for the first time last year, cash and checks accounted for less than half the payments — 47 percent — for in-store purchases, according to a study by the American Bankers Association and Boston-based Dove Consulting Group. Just five years ago, they made up 57 percent.

During the same period, the

study said, debit-card transactions increased from 21 percent five years ago to 31 percent as of last year.

Luis Gonzalez, 23, and his wife Vanessa, 22, of Orange, are dedicated debit-card users. "They are easy to carry — you don't have to carry money around," said Luis Gonzalez. "It's also easier to track receipts. You can go home and check your account online."

SEE DEBIT ON PAGE 31

Adviser: Retirees should spend, too

Being frugal not only way to stay afloat

BY JONATHAN CLEMENTS

The Wall Street Journal

Many retirees have trimmed their spending during recent years, and it isn't just because of plunging bond yields and tumbling stock prices. Instead, they have been reacting to dire warnings from Wall Street, cautioning them that their portfolios can't sustain the sort of withdrawal rates that used to be considered safe. Feeling pinched? Don't resign yourself to a lifetime of scrimping and saving just yet.

A new study by Minneapolis certified financial planner Jonathan Guyton analyzed how to generate 40 years of income while surviving brutal market conditions, such as high inflation and a steep market decline early in retirement. He found retirees may be able to withdraw as much as 6.2 percent initially.

When experts talk about withdrawal rates, they are typically referring to the percentage of a portfolio's value withdrawn during the first year of retirement.

Thereafter, retirees are assumed to increase their withdrawals along with inflation. Let's say you retired with \$600,000, inflation ran at 3 percent and you used a 6 percent withdrawal rate. In that scenario, you would withdraw \$36,000 in the first year of retirement, \$37,080 in year two, \$38,192 in year three and so on.

Keep two things in mind. First, you will owe taxes, so not all this money can be spent. Second, if you spend your dividends and interest, these sums count toward the amount withdrawn.

The strategy of increasing withdrawals along with inflation works fine, provided the markets and inflation are moderately well-behaved. But if you get hit with either rapid inflation or a

devastating market crash, you can rapidly run out of money, as you make larger and larger withdrawals from an ever-shrinking portfolio.

If your portfolio loses money during the year, you can't give yourself a raise the following year. In other words, if you add up your portfolio's year-end value and the money withdrawn during the prior 12 months and this sum is less than your portfolio's beginning-of-year value, you can't increase your next year's withdrawal to compensate for inflation.

Also, avoid selling hard-hit stock funds. Instead, each year, start by lightening up on winning stock funds.

Finally, "rebalance" your bond funds back to their target percentages, and sweep the gains into your money fund. The proceeds from rebalancing, plus the cash already in your money fund, should cover your spending needs.

If it doesn't, you should draw down your bonds even further. As a last resort, sell more of your stock funds, starting with the prior year's best performers.

The first and second rules will occasionally limit spending increases, so there's a chance that retirees who use Guyton's strategy will receive less total income over 40 years than if they had started with a lower initial withdrawal rate but got inflation increases every year.

Still, retirees get a decent amount of income initially and they may never see the downside, either because they don't live long enough or because the markets prove relatively benign.

As Guyton puts it, "I wouldn't want to be the financial planner who has to look at an 85-year-old client in the eye and explain why he has so much money and why he's had so little fun."

American Airlines tossing its pillows

Cash-strapped American Airlines on Wednesday said it is trying to take some of the fluff out of its costs. So the world's largest carrier is eliminating pillows on its planes.

The multibillion-dollar airline, the world's largest carrier, figures it will save about \$300,000 a year by doing away with the pillows on about half of its fleet — 334 MD-80s, American officials said.

But what the airline may gain in savings it may lose in its appeal to customers, analysts said.

According to American, pillowless airplanes translate into savings because workers will be able to clean the planes faster between flights. That will reduce the time aircraft sit at airport gates.

But what will passengers think when they get to the MD-80s with no heads back and find — no pillow? "We think in many cases the customers won't miss it," said Ned Reynolds, an American spokesman in Manhattan.

But Vaughn Cordle, chief analyst for Airline Forecasts LLC, consultants in Washington, D.C., said airlines should be so sure about that "Passengers will not be over time," Cordle said. "The quality of the service deteriorates because of the financial distress."

American said it chose MD-80s because they have adjustable headrests that can be used in place of pillows. And just in case passengers think American is becoming a no-frills carrier, it noted that the MD-80s would continue to carry blankets.

From wire reports

YOUR MONEY

Helping mom may hurt credit

Q: My mother has asked me to co-sign a loan for a used car. Her current vehicle requires major repairs, and appears to be in bad enough shape that it will continue to eat money.

She has poor credit, and was repeatedly in default on a mobile home loan co-signed by her boyfriend. She eventually paid it off, but at great cost to his credit score and only after several emergency contributions over the years from him and from me. I fully expect that if I do co-sign, she'll fall behind on the payments and I'll end up bailing her out again.

Is there any way to protect my credit score if I do co-sign, or are there any less risky alternatives?

A: If your mother is late on even a single payment, your credit score could be devastated. You could easily be considered helping from a great risk to a mediocre one in lenders' eyes. That means you could have a tougher time getting credit yourself, and you'll probably pay more in fees and interest.

In other words, once you co-sign the loan, your credit is in your mother's hands—and as you well know, that's not a safe place to be.

You could try to head off the damage by asking the lender to agree in writing to contact you if your mom fails to pay, but that's no guarantee that the missed payments won't also show up on your credit report.

If you're committed to helping her, you might consider getting the loan in your name and making the payments yourself, with the understanding that she's supposed to reimburse you. She'll probably feel even less obligation to pay than she

has any other lender, which means this solution will cost you more in the short run. In the long run, though, you'll be able to help your mom while protecting your future credit.

Q: I'm a 49-year-old woman who wants to get my bachelor's degree. I've been accepted to a private four-year university, but can't get a loan or scholarship money. Though I only make \$11 an hour as a teacher's assistant, my wife makes \$150,000 per year, which would make us ineligible for any financial aid. She's already paying for her son's college education and doesn't want to pay for mine, but to my age taking out a loan is foolish. Do you have any advice?

A: Excessive debt is foolish at any age, but a moderate amount of borrowing could easily pay off for you in higher income and greater job satisfaction.

The key is "moderate." You're unlikely to find enough scholarship money to make much of a dent in the price tag of a private, four-year school, and you're never not to want to take \$80,000 or more in student loan debt.

The simplest answer, then, is to find a cheaper school, take on a few student loans and try to continue working at least part time. You should be able to handle the debt load as long as the total amount you borrow is two-thirds or less of the salary you expect to make your first year after graduating.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Improve and Protect Your FICO Number" (The McGraw-Hill Companies). Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 1940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., #238, Studio City, CA 91614 or via her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She responds to letters on a non-personal basis. Distributed by No More Red Ink.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

Debit: Cards popular, but pitfalls aplenty

DEBIT, FROM PAGE 30

Sometimes, however, they don't use their debit card, because of a feature that distinguishes debit cards from credit cards: They are linked directly to the consumer's bank account so the money is immediately deducted.

Gerrit Detweiler, president of Ultimate Credit Solutions Inc. and author of "The Ultimate Credit Handbook," said consumers also need to watch out for other pitfalls when using debit cards.

"The biggest thing is that if you're a victim of fraud, how fast do I get my money back into my [banking] account?" said Detweiler, who worked on a debit-card project with Bank of America last year.

Consumers should monitor their accounts closely for unauthorized transactions, she said. If your card is lost or stolen, you may also be liable for the first \$50 in losses. With the Visa check card, there is no liability.

Fees are also an issue. Some banks and retailers charge fees for some debit-card transactions, so make sure you know how much it is going to cost.

Unlike credit cards, some debit-card companies also do not provide consumer protection for disputed purchases. If a purchase is out of town or online, you may want to think twice about using a debit card.

Pros and cons

Debit cards have many advantages, but pitfalls, too.

- **Pros:**
 - Convenient.
 - No need to carry cash.
 - Accepted by a variety of merchants in person, online and by phone.
 - Provides a paper record of purchase.
 - Purchases are itemized on your bank statement.
 - Some debit cards now offer rewards programs like credit cards do.
- **Cons:**
 - The money immediately comes out of your checking account, unlike a credit card, where you can take advantage of a 20- to 30-day grace period for payment.
 - Failing to keep track of expenditures could result in overdrafts.
 - If the card is stolen, you may be liable for the first \$50 of expenditures.
 - Some bank cards and merchants charge fees for each transaction.
 - If there is a problem with a purchase, you may have to deal directly with the merchant.

—KRT

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				NYSE				AMEX			
52-wk High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	52-wk High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg
10,753.23	9,585.50	Dow Jones Industrial	10,656.91	-115.94	-1.09	5,200.00	4,500.00	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-0.25
3,631.53	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,459.65	-44.57	-1.27	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
3,312.1	2,413.25	Dow Jones Utilities	3,249.79	-63.1	-1.92	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
7,042.22	5,922.45	NYSE Composite	6,947.19	-55.72	-0.80	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
1,104.51	1,004.51	AMEX Index	1,064.88	-3.55	-0.34	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
2,153.53	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,080.13	-33.65	-1.60	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
1,108.48	1,031.20	S&P 500	1,070.34	-13.21	-1.21	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
6,082.1	4,465.26	S&P 400	4,527.23	-73.39	-1.61	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
67.78	515.90	Russell 2000	613.44	-48.22	-7.39	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10
10,053.28	9,000.00	Wall Street Journal	11,480.00	-107.88	-0.94	1,000.00	800.00	SPDR	100.00	-0.10	-0.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates				Commercial rates			
Japanese yen (Nov. 22)	101.80	South Korean won (Nov. 22)	1,041.00	British pound (Nov. 22)	1.58	Swiss franc (Nov. 22)	1.58
Euro (Nov. 22)	1.38	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
British pound (Nov. 22)	1.58	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Bahraini (Dinar)	0.377	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
British pound (Nov. 22)	1.58	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Canada (Dollar)	1.1293	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Denmark (Krone)	5.7019	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Egypt (Pound)	6.20	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.0012	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
India (Rupee)	77.107	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Hungary (Forint)	39.24	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,936.25	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Israel (Shekel)	4.9267	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Japan (Yen)	101.80	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2425	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Lebanon (Lira)	347.4	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.6677	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.75	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0621	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
South Korea (Won)	1,041.00	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Taiwan (Dollar)	34.7	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Thailand (Baht)	40.66	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27
Turkey (Lira)	1,492.75	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27	Chinese yuan (Nov. 22)	8.27

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	0d	Last Chg	Name	Vol	0d	Last Chg	Name	Vol	0d	Last Chg
Amazon	54,049	4.31	-	Microsoft	11,027	36.48	-	Google	31,471	3.17	+0.01
IBM	29,751	27.23	-0.44	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
Apple	1,045	1.04	0.01	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
Yahoo	24,581	18.88	-1.27	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
Google	1,045	1.04	0.01	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
Microsoft	10,753	15.35	+1.62	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
Alibaba	1,045	1.04	0.01	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
United	1,045	1.04	0.01	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01
JP Morgan	14,259	37.42	-0.40	SPDR	526.41	-1.32	-1.32	Microsoft	31,471	3.17	+0.01

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	% Chg	Net Chg	% Chg	% Chg	Name	NAV	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg
Airbus Technologies	-16	64.00	-25	+18.3	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Boeing	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Lockheed Martin	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Raytheon	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
General Dynamics	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Northrop Grumman	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Boeing	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Lockheed Martin	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Raytheon	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
General Dynamics	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Northrop Grumman	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Boeing	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Lockheed Martin	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Raytheon	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
General Dynamics	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Northrop Grumman	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Boeing	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Lockheed Martin	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Raytheon	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
General Dynamics	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Northrop Grumman	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Boeing	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Lockheed Martin	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
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General Dynamics	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Northrop Grumman	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Boeing	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
Lockheed Martin	-16	33.77	-1.08	+27.2	Fidelity Intl. Growth	27.66	-0.42	-0.42	-0.42
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Sunday Horoscope

The grand time in water signs highlights deep emotions. What is said and done with great heart will bring fast results. Music and art are the natural expressions of your powerful feelings. But you don't have to sign up at the karaoke bar to take advantage of these stars — even doodling on your to-do list or humming to yourself brings luck.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 21). This year is like a big green light to your personal life. You see that fulfillment is possible, and you're not afraid to embrace what makes you happy. December puts your talent in the spotlight. You'll make a business plan in January. Fleeting it out will be critical to your financial success. Heart connections are lucky with Taurus and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's clearly a better way to get things done than the way you witness today. Because nobody else is speaking up, you might be inclined to hold your tongue — be a leader instead. Your encouragement gives strength to the weary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't have to be one of those people who get lost while driving. You don't admit it, and won't stop and ask for directions! Get input from people who have already arrived. By following advice, you'll gracefully land at your destination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You do what's right instead of doing what's easy. Because of this, love flows through you, expanding you — not the kind that makes birds sing and daisies grow at your feet, but the kind that comes from self-respect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What's inside wants out. When it comes to expressing yourself to people who matter to you, you can't be too creative. How are you going to leave your legacy on somebody's heart?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're wise, and you've got no time to waste. So just walk away from that pen you know is useless. Saying anything at all will engage this per-

son in his or her madness. It's like fighting fire with oil.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're too wise to succumb to the myth that what happens in your world makes you feel a certain way. Really, what you think and feel determines what happens in your world. Now, everyone else would just get that.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just when you thought you had total control, the power slips through your hands. It's an illusion. Take a walk, and shake it off. You are, as songwriter John Mayer suggests, bigger than your body gives you credit for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't mind being an agitator. After all, it's the grain of sand that makes the oyster form a pearl. Besides, you believe those close to you can do better. As long as people can change, the world can change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People close have a way of triggering your defenses. Do the opposite of your initial reaction, and ask if there's anything you can do to help the other person. Tonight, someone dishy hangs on your every word.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A family member is trying to lend you support, though it's hard to tell. This is when giving the benefit of the doubt will be most helpful. Don't let it become one of those don't-know-what-you've-got-till-it's-gone situations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've got something important to say, and it would sure save the whole world world stop turning just to listen to you. Oh well, at least three people will take careful note. That's a start.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Nostalgia sets in. Later, you'll have the same rosy feeling about what you're doing right now. You play a different role to each person in your life. Try and keep the same rules for everyone, though. Consistency is lucky.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Coming out isn't family's choice, even if they don't want to know

Dear Abby: I am an openly gay man, out of the closet at work, at college and with friends. I'm out to everyone except my family, who have made it clear that being gay is unacceptable.

I spent years trying to change my sexual orientation, which I now know to be about as achievable as changing the color of my eyes.

I don't know how to come out to my family, or if I even should. The only family member who knows said, "They'll only hear what they want to hear, and they don't want to hear this."

A friend recently asked me what would happen if I was in a relationship. Would I hide forever or come out by saying, "Folks, meet my boyfriend?" He said I should come out ME, not for them.

Right now I'm confused. One of my family members is disabled and I don't know if the news would kill him. What's the wisest thing to do?

—Almost Out in Canton, Ohio

Dear Almost Out: In all the time I have been associated with this column — and it's decades

ago — I have never heard of anyone "dying from being told that a family member is gay. In fact,

the family usually has had some finding by the time the person chooses to say it.

In your case, the "wisest thing to do" would be to contact Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and request information about how to come out to your family.

At the same time, ask for literature that will help your family understand that sexual orientation isn't something a person "chooses" on a lark, nor is it something for which a person should be punished.

PFLAG can be reached at www.pflag.org; or by e-mail: info@pflag.org; or at

1726 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

I hope your family is willing to broaden their perspective. If not, the loss will be theirs, because it appears you already have other sources of emotional support. Good for you, because people who are happy and involved with others live fuller, more productive lives than those who stay locked in emotional isolation.

Dear Abby: I'm a widowed 48-year-old grandmother raising three beautiful grandchildren, and I've been lucky enough to find a really special man I'll call



Vegetarian visitors making their hosts feel unwelcome

Dear Annie: What do you think of a woman who walks into your house, sniffs the air and says, "I smell pork!" then wrinkles up her nose in disgust? That is my sister-in-law, "Velma." She and her husband are militant vegetarians.

Velma and her husband used to visit us every summer and would stay in the small apartment we have over the garage. Since this apartment had no kitchen, they had to cook their meals in our house, using the "unfainted" pots and pans they brought with them. We had to stay out of their way until they finished. We were quite willing to prepare vegetarian meals for Velma, but she never seemed open to such an offer.

Velma's mother recently moved to a retirement home not far from where we live. Velma and her husband now stay in a nearby motel when they visit, so they no longer have to cook their meals in our house.

However, Velma usually arrives a few days ahead of her husband, and she stays in our home until he gets here.

I always thought the whole purpose of a visit is to sit and enjoy talking with one's family and friends and to share a meal. The entire time Velma is here, she barely speaks to me. I feel

like the front desk clerk in a motel. The situation has become so uncomfortable that I am considering moving out for the duration so I won't be confronted with her unfriendly attitude. Am I being unreasonable?

Ignored in Vermont
Dear Vermont: Velma is entitled to her eating preferences, but as a guest,

she certainly isn't being particularly gracious. We're not sure how much effort you've made to engage her in conversation, and you might try harder, but it does sound as if she is not interested in chatting with you.

She simply wants the free accommodations. Either ignore her for the few days that she stays or, if you can't, simply make the best of it.

your home, or next time tell her that your house is not available. The choice is yours.

Dear Annie: You printed someone's pet peeve about the improper use of "less" and "fewer." Please print mine. I have two.

The first is the misuse of the apostrophe, either by omitting it in possessives ("the dogs tail") or inserting it in non-possessive plurals ("table's for sale"). My second pet peeve is the comma splice, in which two complete sentences are joined by a comma, but lack a

"Dale." I have had four major relationships in my life. The last two have ended with their deaths. The first — my late husband — died in a work-related car accident. The second died of an aortic aneurysm.

Dale has proposed marriage and I said yes; however, my doubts are linked to the adage "It comes in threes," and I'm afraid I'll lose him too. If this seems silly, I'm sorry. I loved both of the men who died, and after the last one I swore never to love like this again. However, God says, "Never say never." Can you help me?

—Gun-Shy in Phoenix

Dear Gun-Shy: Consider this: The only thing siller than bowing to your superstitions would be to sacrifice a mutual love out of fear. You can't change what you think in the past, but if you think positive and concentrate on the present, the future will take care of itself. In a sense, we all "place our bets and take our chances" because in life there are no guarantees. The secret is to think positive.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles 90068. Readers can e-mail to Abby on the internet at <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> or by regular mail to the address above.

ordinating conjunction, such as or, and, or but ("The water was cold, Jill went swimming anyway"). I had an English professor who automatically gave an F to any paper, no matter how good, that contained a comma splice.

Author in Vermont

Dear Author: At the risk of having the grammar police on your tails, we are printing your letter and hope people will pay more attention to their punctuation.

Dear Annie: I own a house-cleaning business and have wonderful clients. Last year, for Christmas, I received six wreaths that were quite beautiful, but Annie, nobody needs six wreaths. I don't want to sound unappreciative, but I would like to let clients know that what workers really want is a cash bonus. A big thanks to all the wonderful folks who remember their hard-work-worthwhile, hard-earned, hard-earned, etc., with a very much appreciated holiday gift.

—Busy in Salem, Ore.
Dear Salem: Most employers give their workers a holiday bonus of some kind. For those who wonder what the perfect gift is, your suggestion will help.

Abby Cadabby is written by Katie Mitchell and Marcy Spaul, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annielanderson@comcast.net, or write to: Ann Landers, c/o The Hearst Corporation, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Anthems praise nations

I'm curious about the origin of the word "anthem." I can't think of any similar words I might be related to.

"Anthem" is one of our older words, arriving in English before the 12th century. It derives ultimately from the Greek "antheion," "antheion," which in turn is from the word "antheion," plus "phone," meaning "sound."

The oldest sense of "anthem" is the same as the current sense of English "anthion": "a line or verse sung as a response during a religious service." "Antheion" is a doublet of "anthem," which means that it came into English by a different path (and in this

case, about five hundred years later) but from the same root word.

"Anthem" eventually came to mean "a sacred vocal composition with words usually from the Scriptures," from which sense it developed the more general meaning "a song or hymn of praise or gladness" in the 16th century. It was from this general sense that in time led to its use in referring to a composition that serves as the musical symbol of a nation. This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Annie's Mailbox



RELIGION

A spiritual journey behind bars Nun reflects on nature of incarceration during her prison stay

BY RON HARRIS
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

PEKIN, Ill. — On a cold, overcast day in early April, Cynthia Brinkman, a 68-year-old nun from the Sisters of Notre-Dame in St. Louis stepped through the teal green metal and glass doors of a red and gray brick building and surrendered herself to federal authorities at the Federal Correctional Institution in Pekin.

Brinkman was to begin a six-month sentence for trespassing at Fort Benning, Ga., during a protest rally at what until recently had been known as the School of the Americas, a controversial Department of Defense-run facility that trains Latin American and South American military personnel for free.

Brinkman normally works at a battered women's shelter in Reynolds County, Mo., and provides pastoral care to terminally ill patients in four other area counties. However, she joined with 10,000 others last year in their annual protest outside the school, which in 2001 was renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

Brinkman, who talked with survivors of military assaults during visits to refugee camps in Honduras in the 1980s, knew her arrest would lead to incarceration. She agonized for nearly a year over her decision that led to prison. But, she said, it was a step she felt she needed to take to highlight the issue.

On Oct. 1, Brinkman, a silver-haired woman with blue eyes and fragile bones, was released. Her stay in the minimum security facility, she says, was an interesting odyssey, from fear, to reconciliation, to anger, to empathy to deep affection for her fellow inmates. Brinkman said she received between 15 to 30 letters each day.

The Federal Correctional Institution in Pekin for women is a minimum security facility for non-violent, mostly first-time offenders. There are no bars or fences to keep inmates from escaping.

About 300 women are housed in the prison, which, like most every other federal correctional institutions, is overcrowded. The women, median age 41, perform

virtually every chore to make the prison run.

Brinkman says that her months in prison have changed her mind about what she calls the nation's "criminal justice system."

"Before, I always thought that pretty much all of the people who were in prison deserved to be there and needed to be there for the good of society," she said. "I no longer believe that."

"People are human and they make mistakes, but if we're talking nonviolent, we're not talking about a danger to society. It's not that people shouldn't be punished, but the extent of the punishment."

If she had to do it all over again, she would, and she has told that to more than one prison official and inmate who has questioned her decision.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/KEIT
Sister Cynthia Brinkman, left, receives good wishes from a friend, one of many who have supported her throughout a six-month sentence at the federal prison in Pekin, Ill.

'Share the Well' a call for world's oppressed peoples

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

India's oppressed Dalits often go thirsty. Tradition dictates that these "untouchables" must not draw water from a public well because they are considered unclean. As a result, Dalits must often wait hours until someone else offers assistance.

Now, Caedmon's Call's "Share the Well" arrives to offer encouragement and plead for assistance.

The folk-rock group is known for creating worship music, but its new CD highlights the struggles and concerns of people in foreign lands.

"We've been asked to be the voice for the voiceless," said Caedmon's frontman Cliff Young.

Members of Caedmon's call "Share the Well" a "world record" and it does much more than add a few of India's sistras and Ecuador's pan pipes. It captures the voices, rhythms, concerns and moods of the countries it visits. All of this is woven seamlessly into a sort of folk-rock tapestry designed to inspire others to take up the concerns of these lands.

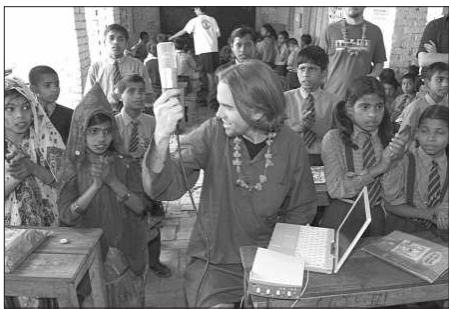
"Share the Well" opens with a Dalit chant and drumbeat and then breaks into the title track, with its simple but effective chorus about the need to "share the well with your brother." Despite its serious topic, the song is like a refreshing spring bubbling with life. Its energy sets the tone of the entire disc as it describes hope amid difficulties.

Interest in the developing nations isn't anything new for Caedmon's, who for years has participated in mission trips to Latin America and supported the child-sponsorship program Compassion International. However, it wasn't until meeting a Dalit man during a concert in North Carolina that the band turned in that direction. The man described the oppression India's 250 million Dalits experience under the traditional caste system.

"These are people who have been told they are worthless, they are untouchables," Young said.

Because of this, many Dalits have looked for ways to escape the caste system and some have converted. Young expects the trend to continue.

"God's really done something," he said. "You can really feel it in the air. This could be the biggest revival of all time. ... This could be a worldwide revival."



Photos courtesy of Essential Records

Josh Moore of Caedmon's Call records Indian schoolchildren for a track on the new CD "Share the Well." The disc contains many songs about the plight of India's oppressed Dalits — or untouchables. The CD's cover appears at right.

Today's praise

The desire for change prompted many Dalits to tell their stories and offer their talents to Caedmon's Call during recording sessions in India. "We had some musicians travel by train, standing up for three days just to tell their story," Young said.

That enthusiasm inspired and challenged the group.

"In one sense it was the most challenging CD we've ever done and in other it was the easiest CD we've ever done. It was all inspiration. ... It just came together," Young said. "... At the same time it was a lot of work. We put a lot of time into it."

The result is a disc that's bursting with great music and powerful lyrics. A quick survey doesn't do justice to the depth of this work.

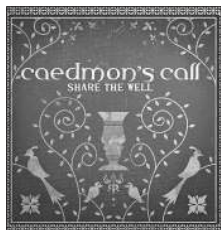
"Mother India" is a majestic song about how Father God sheds his tears for and reaches out to Mother India. It's a simple, acoustic song that relies heavily on native drumbeats and Danielle Young's pleading vocals as it expresses heartfelt yearning for an end to oppression.

"Bombay Rain" was written in reaction to the swirl of color, confusion and culture of India. Its lyrics paint some of the most vivid pictures on the disc. "Sarala" describes a young American girl's reaction to the Indian homeland of her parents. This is followed by a brief description by Dalit leader Joseph D'Souza of the conditions in which his people live. The "Wings of the Morning" urges continued hope.

"Dalit Hymn" is the most assertive of the calls for justice. Among its lyrics are, "Prime minister, free the Dalit," and, "Prime minister, cast a lie."

"It's talking directly to the prime minister of India," Cliff Young said. "... We recorded the entire song in India with Dalit musicians."

Although the plight of the Dalit is the major theme of the CD, Caedmon's doesn't forget about its roots in worship music. Amid the rhythms of other nations, "There's Only One (Holy One)" sounds a lot more like a traditional Caedmon's worship song — but that's just fine. It packs an energy spanned as much by enthusiastic



lyrics of hope and praise as by a powerful folk melody. Another standout is Danielle Young's ballad "The Innocent's Corner," the haunting account of a woman facing hunger with her children.

Neither does Caedmon's forget its links to Latin America. Danielle Young's voice again strikes the perfect notes when the disc jumps around the globe to Ecuador in "All I Need," the first of three tracks that extol the simple joys of life. Also from Ecuador is the exuberant "Volcanoland." Clapping hands and tambourines keep the beat as a pan pipe provides the perfect accents in this song about a simple and happy life in the shade of a volcano. Finally, "The Roses" also tells about the quite joys high above Quito.

Ecuador has a prominent place on "Share the Well" because its poor also face problems with water. Cliff Young said digging new wells to provide clean water will be a major emphasis for the group's new "Share the Well Foundation."

"We're going to give them physical water as well as living water," he said.

As a final note, Young was eager to send a message to troops deployed in the war on terrorism. While some have charged that the fighting is about policy, oil or land, Young said that we are mistaken "if we think that what we're doing in Iraq and Afghanistan isn't a spiritual battle. ... This is a battle between good and evil."

On the Web: www.caedmons.com

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowers@stripes.osd.mil

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Running away with it



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Heidelberg's Freddy Yakana, right, runs past Ansbach's Seth Hill for a 27-yard gain during the championship game of the 115-year-old European Youth Services Football League in Heidelberg, Germany, on Saturday. Heidelberg defeated Ansbach 18-14 to win the title. The six-team league, in its second season, featured three teams from Heidelberg and one each from Ansbach, Bamberg and Baumholder.

Young swimmers go the distance

EFSL hosts 800M freestyle, 400M medley for first time

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHÖLDER, Germany — The European Forces Swim League's first long-distance meet, held simultaneously Saturday at Baumholder and Vicenza, Italy, ended a long wait for EFSL head coach Peter Trummer.

"I've been trying for more than 10 years to get this in," Trummer said Saturday as he watched 157 swimmers compete in the 800-meter freestyle and 400-meter individual medley. "Long-distance is a part of the swimming family."

Until Saturday, however, it was a part of the family estranged from the 27-year-old EFSL, which conducts swimming meets for military community youths aged 6 to 19 in an 18-community league.

Saturday's events, Trummer said, filled a void in the league's ability to develop swimmers.

"We have a lot of talent in the EFSL," Trummer said, "but sometimes when our kids return to the States or Canada or countries where swimming is popular, they're lost in the woods because they've never done distance."

Saturday's winners will receive league championship medals and team and individual points counting toward overall titles at the EFSL's annual final meet at the Munich Olympic pool in February.



WALLY RAYNES/Special to Stars and Stripes

Matt Jaudon, a 14-year-old member of the Kaiserslautern Kingfish, wins his heat for the 14-16 age bracket in the 800-meter freestyle on Saturday in Baumholder, Germany.

Those results will be available later this week.

"We'll take the times from here and combine them with the times from Vicenza," said Kaiserslautern Kingfish assistant coach Mark Pakradoni. "The swimmers will receive their medals in Munich."

One of those in medal contention in the 800 is 16-year-old Kingfish Justin Smith, the overall winner at Baumholder.

"This was my first one," he said of the 800 freestyle race he completed in 9 minutes, 48.38 seconds.

Smith, who's been swimming competitively for 10 years, finished the 32-lap race almost 10 seconds ahead of runner-up Sascha Henrichs of the SHAPE Seals. The two were the only swimmers of any age group to finish in less than 10 minutes here Saturday.

Smith, who said his preferred

event is the 100-meter breaststroke, called the 800 "mentally tiring."

"You're swimming and looking at the lap counter and thinking 'Oh my gosh, I'm not even halfway finished yet,'" he said.

"You have to concentrate the whole time," said teammate Danny Edwards, who clocked 10:00.72, "because if your form starts to deteriorate, you're in trouble."

Overall girls winner in the 800 was Terri Plotkin of the Kingfish, who swam 10:10.35 in the 13-14 year-old category.

Swimmers as young as 10 raced in the 800. Trummer said it will help them build muscle and endurance.

"They have good hearts and good lungs," Trummer said. "A lot of them are more comfortable swimming distance events than the older ones."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

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STARS AND STRIPES
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Bears focus on shutting down Colts' Manning

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As the new man in the middle of the Chicago Bears' defense, Hunter Hillenmeyer will be calling the signals, trying to disrupt the NFL's most potent offense while matching football wits with Peyton Manning.

That means finding a way to contain Manning and decipher his line-of-scrimmage machinations, where he sometimes calls the play at the last moment and other times simply tries to fool the defense.

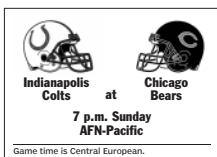
"He does a good job of getting people to worry about other things," Hillenmeyer says.

Considering that the Indianapolis Colts (6-5) have not scored fewer than 24 points in any game this season, Chicago's improving defense should be worried.

With 31 touchdown passes, Manning is on pace to break Dan Marino's NFL-record 48 set in 1984. He also needs 251 yards passing Sunday — easily within his reach — at Soldier Field to reach 3,000 yards for a seventh straight season.

Two more TD passes give him 200, making him the second quickest to reach that number behind Marino.

And if that isn't enough for the Bears' de-



fense, Edgerrin James needs just 123 yards — easily within his reach — to hit 1,000 for the fourth time in his career.

The numbers go on and on. The Bears (4-5) are riding a three-game winning streak, but as has been the case most of the season, they will be without one of their top players. Linebacker Brian Urlacher, the four-time Pro Bowler, is sidelined four to six weeks with an injury to his left calf that required surgery.

Hillenmeyer, who filled in at middle linebacker earlier when Urlacher missed two games with a hamstring injury, will move back to the position from the outside. His responsibility is to put the Bears in the right coverages — if there are any to stop

Manning and his assortment of receivers, led by Marvin Harrison.

"No, it's not easy. I'm calling the checks, but everybody is looking for checks," Hillenmeyer said. "Just from watching the film it looks like he completes every single pass."

Manning scatters the ball and five Colts have caught at least five TD passes this season. And he's mastered line-of-scrimmage play calls for an offense averaging 33 points a game, one that has helped cover up any defensive deficiencies.

"It's obviously a system we've been doing for a number of years. It's just kind of controlled chaos out there, as I call it. And it's just sort of what the quarterback is required to do in this offense," Manning said.

Offensive coordinator Tom Moore leads last year's MVP do what he feels he needs to on the field, even if it's at the last second.

"I feel I've earned that. That's kind of the best thing as a quarterback you can have from an offensive coordinator is trust," Manning said. "So it's a combination of different things. But to me it still comes down to execution. It's not trickery out there. It's not gimmicks. Whether it's an audible or a called play or what not, you still have to block 'em and play catch and catch."

The Bears' defense carried the team the past three weeks as rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel struggled. Krenzel's quarterback rating after three straight starts is a minuscule 49.4, compared to Manning's eye-popping 122.7.

No wonder the Bears need their defense to be their offense, just like last week, when Michael Haynes juggled an interception back for a TD and fellow defensive ends Alex Brown and Adelewe Ogundimu combined on a sack for a safety in overtime to give the Bears a 19-17 win over the Titans.

A key for the Bears will be to somehow control field position, if not with their struggling offense then with the punting of Brad Maynard. That's because once Manning gets the Colts into the red zone, Indianapolis converts for TDs, not field goals.

The Colts lead the NFL at 76 percent, getting a TD on 26 of 34 trips inside the 20. And sacking Manning is next to impossible. He's gone down just six times all season while attempting 296 passes.

"We have to sack him," Brown said. "We got to put pressure on him and make him throw it earlier and when he doesn't want to. 'We have to beat some blocks and do things right and make some plays on him. He rarely makes mistakes out there. He's smart, like a coach.'"

Bengals seek to cool off hot Steelers

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Bengals' next opponent hasn't lost in a long time. The season is at a make-or-break point. Chad Johnson is running his mouth to build excitement.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? One year ago, the upstart Bengals forged an identity and jump-started their season by knocking off the 9-0 Chiefs at Paul Brown Stadium, backing up Johnson's guarantee of a win.

They're looking to do it again Sunday.

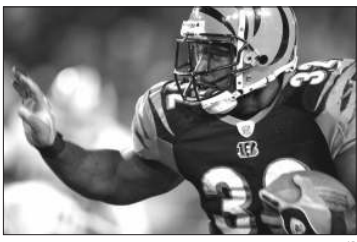
The Pittsburgh Steelers (8-1) are on an equally impressive roll, winning seven in a row, their longest streak in three years, with rookie Ben Roethlisberger running the show. With the kid quarterback from nearby Miami of Ohio, a bruising running game led by an old standee and a blitz-crash defense orchestrated by former Bengals coach Dick LeBeau, the Steelers have emphatically emerged as the league's front-runner.

Previously unbeaten New England and Philadelphia tried to slow them down, but got beat humbly at Heinz Field. The Browns faded miserably last week in Cleveland.

Now, it's up to the Bengals (4-5), who are improving it's last year all over again.

"Kansas City was on top of the world and everybody was talking about the Chiefs' quarterback, Palmer said. And the same is being said for Pittsburgh right now. It is a similar situation.

We obviously handed ourselves in a way to be successful in that situation last year, so we're looking to do the same thing."



Cincinnati Bengals running back Rudi Johnson is the only running back in the league to reach 100 yards against the Steelers this year.



The parallels abound. The Bengals' 24-19 win over the Chiefs sparked a four-game winning streak that put them in playoff contention for the first time since 1990. This time, they've won two in a row and gotten back a familiar feeling. Receiver Chad Johnson is even ruminating about a showy touchdown celebration, though stopping short of guaranteeing anything — a concession to his old-school head coach.

"We're getting on a roll about the same time as we were last year," Johnson said. "The offense is clicking right now, running and passing. So it's going to be a good one."

Their best shot at pulling it out

involves the other Johnson — Rudi, who ran for 123 yards in Pittsburgh's 28-17 win on Oct. 3. No other running back has reached 100 yards against the Steelers. The last three teams — Patriots, Eagles and Browns — have run for 96 yards combined. Everything the Steelers do seems to turn out right.

"That's what happens when you get hot — everybody plays great," Rudi Johnson said. "You look across the board, everybody on their team is playing great."

Things seemed ominous when Roethlisberger was forced to play because of Tommy Maddox's elbow injury in the second game. Instead, the first-round pick has won all seven starts, the best debut by an NFL rookie quarterback.

With their offensive line intact this season, the Steelers have re-emerged as one of the league's most dominant running teams. When Duane Stacy hurt a hamstring, Jerome Bettis took over and tore off consecutive 100-yard games.

Bettis has 10 games of more than 100 yards against the Bengals, and needs only 6 yards to move ahead of Tony Dorsett for fifth place on the career list.

Eagles taking nothing for granted vs. Redskins

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Washington Redskins are used to being underdogs this season. They consider themselves a different kind of dog now.

"We're just kind of that hungry, hungry dog," linebacker Marcus Washington said. "That's the kind of dog you should be afraid of, the kind of dog that sits in the back of the alley and waits for the guys to bring the trash out. We don't have a whole lot to lose, so we're going to go up there and give them all we got."

The Philadelphia Eagles (8-1) are wary of the Redskins' bite. Despite being 10½-point favorites over struggling Washington (3-6) on Sunday, the Eagles expect a tough challenge at Lincoln Financial Field.

"The Eagles are a dangerous team because of the fact of what they have in those key positions," Eagles free safety Brian Dawkins said, referring to running back Clinton Portis and wide receivers Laveranues Coles and Rod Gardner.

"It's a difference between a team that doesn't have the talent and is trying to sneak up on you and a team that does have the talent. They have talent."

The Redskins' offense will be led by Patrick Ramsey, who starts his first game of the season after replacing Mark Brunell at quarterback. Washington hasn't scored more than 18 points this season, the longest the team has gone without scoring 20 points in a game since the 1990s.

Ramsey has had some success against Philadelphia, however. He threw for 213 yards and three touchdowns in a 34-21 loss at Vet-



erans Stadium in December 2002. He passed for 271 yards and one TD in a 27-25 loss ended with a missed 2-point conversion at the line last October.

"They know what they've seen from me, in the past. They may not game-plan off that, but they would expect that," Ramsey said. "I've played decently against the Eagles, but we haven't gotten wins, so it means nothing."

The Eagles are coming off a lopsided 49-21 victory at Dallas on Monday night that followed a dismal performance in their only loss, at Pittsburgh. After scoring just one TD in the previous two games, the offense found the end zone six times against the Cowboys, including three TD passes from Donovan McNabb to Terrell Owens.

But the Redskins have the NFL's second-ranked defense behind the Steelers. They've allowed just 267.1 yards and 16.7 points per game despite injuries to several top players, including three-time Pro Bowl linebacker LaVar Arrington.

"Their defense is doing a great job," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "They're hitting us all over the place and playing very aggressive football. It will be a great challenge for our offense."



Oakland Raiders quarterback Kerry Collins spent extra time in the film room to get ready for the San Diego Chargers on Sunday. Collins has thrown 12 interceptions to only five touchdown passes this season.

Raiders hoping to reverse Chargers San Diego routed Oakland 42-12 in first meeting three weeks ago

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Chargers and Raiders don't have to look back far in their film rooms to prepare for the teams' second meeting of the season.

The tape should still be near the top of the pile — they only played three weeks ago — and Oakland would prefer to forget about the 42-14 beating it took on Halloween.

"Watching tape of last time we played then should be great motivation for us," Raiders coach Norv Turner said.

Both clubs are coming off their bye week, healthy, refreshed and ready to finish the season strong. For the Chargers (6-3), this game starts an important stretch of three straight against AFC West opponents. They are tied with Denver for first place, have won three in a row and five of their last six, averaged 32.3 points and held opponents to 7.3 yards rushing.

Quarterback Drew Brees figures this is the perfect time to play Oakland again, especially facing the hostile Raider Nation. "Absolutely," he said. "This is always a really physical game, and that's what you don't want to lose after a bye. You don't practice for a couple of days, and you don't want guys to fall into a little bit of a lull. So this will be a game to get us back into it."

"Going up there, I'm sure that they're going to have a little something extra for us after what happened down here."

This will be the ninth time the Raiders have played a team twice in a three-week span in the regular season since the NFL went to a 16-game schedule in 1978.

In 1998, the Raiders beat the Seahawks at home and away with only two weeks between games. They also swept Kansas City in 2000 with three weeks separating the meetings.

Still, the Raiders just want to think about Sunday's game.



San Diego
Chargers at Oakland
Raiders

10 p.m. Sunday
AFN-Pacific

Game time is Central European.



Oakland (3-6) snapped a five-game losing streak with a 27-14 win at Carolina on Nov. 7, giving the Raiders a big confidence boost and the hope they can still salvage this season.

"We got bullied the first time. Now we have to step up and beat the bully," safety Ray Buchanan said. "I'm looking forward to this. We're playing at home, and we just won a game last week, so we have a little momentum. But we need to win a game against a team with a winning record."

Kerry Collins is also looking forward to it. Oakland's quarterback spent extra time studying film during the bye week and knows he can play a lot better than he has so far since taking over for injured Rich Gannon in Week 3. Collins, who led the New York Giants to the 2001 Super Bowl, has thrown 12 interceptions and passed for only five touchdowns.

He's also been sacked 13 times.

The Raiders' biggest cheer will be trying to slow down Brees and his top target, tight end Antonio Gates, who's having one heck of a breakout season. Gates has caught five of his eight touchdown passes in the last two games, including three in a 43-17 victory against New Orleans on Nov. 7. And he's dangerous on third down, getting 19 of his 54 catches in that situation.

Brees picked apart Oakland's inconsistent defense last game, getting a career-high five touchdown passes and setting team records for pass efficiency.

BY DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City's defensive backups must be awful.

While trying to explain why a season once so promising is about to implode, Dick Vermeil was asked if any starters on a defense that ranks 28th in points allowed and 26th in yards yielded could be in danger of losing their jobs. No. Not right now.

"I would like to believe that since...minicamps...[offseason workouts], training camp and games we know our best football players are," he said.

In other words, the New England Patriots (8-1) on Monday night will be facing the same defense that gave up 374 yards and 27 points last week to struggling New Orleans.

Instead of demoting a few starters — which he hinted might happen after a 34-31 loss to Tampa Bay two weeks ago — Vermeil will be counting on people stopping the streaking Patriots by learning from their mistakes.

"You do it wrong...you hope you learned enough from that Sunday to the next Sunday that you are closer to doing it right," Vermeil said. "Part of that is defined by the word patience. You can experiment if you run out of patience."

Most significantly for the Chiefs (3-6), who were 9-0 at this point last season, is the loss of Brian Holmes, their leading rusher and the AFC's leading scorer. Holmes missed last week's game with sprained ligaments in his

Seahawks vow not to overlook Dolphins

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

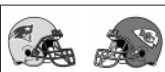
SEATTLE — Jim Bates is taking over as coach. A.J. Feeley is stepping in at quarterback. Midway through a season that seems to be running too long, maybe a shakeup will help the Miami Dolphins.

"We've got to try something," linebacker Zach Thomas said.

Bates was hired as interim coach when Dave Wannstedt resigned Nov. 10. He works his first game Sunday when Miami (1-8) visits the Seattle Seahawks (5-4), who trace some identity issues of their own.

The Seahawks opened the season 3-0 amid talk of a Super Bowl run. Then they lost three straight, are 1-3 in the waterlogged NFC. And this weekend is the first of five remaining home games, a great chance to string up some wins.

"No way," Bates said, but discouraged at all, "Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said, 'We're hitting November and December. We've



New England
Patriots at Chiefs

3 a.m. Tuesday
AFN-Atlantic

Game time is Central European.

right knee and will not be back Monday night.

His backup, Derrick Bylock, broke loose behind a twilight offensive line for 186 yards in a 27-20 loss to the Saints, and showed a quick burst to the hole.

But it's that sort of offensive and defensive imbalance that's haunted the Chiefs for three years.

The offense hums along with Super Bowl efficiency, scoring almost 29 points a game and leading the league in total yards.

"Presti didn't play, but that Bylock had like 200 yards," said New England linebacker Tedy Bruschi. "So, it is their offensive line, I think. I look at that offensive line and I am impressed. I am impressed by the way they play physically and the way they play together. It is the best offensive line in the league."

Brees and his offensive mates are on target, it could be an embarrassing injury for a Kansas City defense that's been burned 26 times by pass plays of 20-plus yards.

Penalties are also crippling the Chiefs. Twelve in New Orleans raised their total to an unsightly 7. That's just six fewer than they drew in 16 games while going 13-3 last year.

Miami Dolphins
at Seattle Seahawks
10:30 p.m. Sunday
AFN-Sports

Joined in European. Game time is Central European.

got a team game at home. There are a lot of teams clumped in with us. We're still playing."

This week, the NFL's leading rusher takes aim at the league's second-worst run defense. At first glance, that would appear to heavily favor Shaun Alexander and the Seahawks.

With 176 yards rushing last week, Alexander posted his third straight 100-yard game and passed the 1,000-yard mark for the season. He's averaging 117.2 yards per game and an impressive 5.4 yards per carry.

Miami's defense has allowed 145.6 yards rushing per game while linebacker Junior Seau and tackle Tim Bowens, out for the season.

You'd think Alexander would be licking his chops.

"No way," Bates is "talented," he said. "Their corners and safeties are really good and anytime Zach Thomas is on the field, they're not

those opposing players will say whatever they think the guy they're going to be playing against wants to hear."

The Patriots, 0-6-1 in their last seven visits to Kansas City, are battling Pittsburgh (8-1) for the top seed in the AFC playoff race. It may not help the Patriots Kansas City defense to hear that New England is coming off a 29-6 whipping of Buffalo, one of the champions' most dominating games in two years.

Working against a defense that's been playing much better than Kansas City's, the Pats outgained the Bills 428 yards to 125. They held the ball more than 22 minutes longer and did not give up an offensive touchdown.

Cory Dillon ran for 151 yards on 26 carries and David Givens caught five of Tom Brady's passes for 66 yards.

"I was proud of the way they played," said coach Bill Belichick.

"I thought we had some balance offensively running and throwing. Defensively, we played more competitively than we did up in Buffalo by not giving up the big plays. We played the running game better. Overall, I thought it was a solid performance."

Brees and his offensive mates are on target, it could be an embarrassing injury for a Kansas City defense that's been burned 26 times by pass plays of 20-plus yards.

Penalties are also crippling the Chiefs. Twelve in New Orleans raised their total to an unsightly 7. That's just six fewer than they drew in 16 games while going 13-3 last year.

hunting. They're better off than a lot of teams."

Holmgren was quick to point out that while the Dolphins are struggling against the run, they've got the No. 1 pass defense, holding opponents to 150.1 yards passing per game.

This is one issue Holmgren insisted, where statistics are nonsense because of Dolphins play-makers like Thomas, and Jason Taylor, cornerbacks Patrick Surin and Sam Madison.

"I know what I see on film," Holmgren said. "They know their defense well. They play their defense well."

Another reason for caution. Quarterback Matt Hasselbeck has been inconsistent lately, and he goes into the Miami game with a bruised right thigh that kept him out of practice most of the week.

"I'll leave that to the training staff," Hasselbeck said when asked to assess his chances of playing.

Hasselbeck is expected to start, with Trent Dilfer ready if needed. The Seahawks get a boost on defense from the return of Grant Wistrom, who missed four weeks with a broken bone in his left knee.

Busch wins pole for season finale

Johnson's title hopes hurt by poor qualifying effort at Homestead

The Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Kurt Busch came to Homestead-Miami Speedway with more in mind than just winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup championship.

"I was just joking in the prequalifying interview that we needed a pole to get into the Bud Shoot-out, and now here we are," Busch said after taking the top spot in qualifying Friday for the season-ending Ford 400.

His first official pole in two years qualified Busch for the made-for-TV Shootout, a race at Daytona in February for the previous season's polesitters. It also could make his job easier Sunday, when he starts the race with an 18-point lead.

Four drivers are bunched within 82 points in the latest championship battle in NASCAR history.

"It is a tremendous plus for us to be in this position to start up on the pole and to have the other competitors behind us," said Busch, the lead of 55 drivers to make a qualifying run on the 1½-mile oval.

The pole also gives Busch the best opportunity to earn a five-point bonus for leading at least one lap in the race.

Busch needs all the edge he can



Kurt Busch is all smiles Friday as he walks back to his garage after winning the pole for Sunday's race at Homestead Miami Speedway.

get with Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin gunning for him. A matter of two or three positions could spell success or failure in the race.

Busch's Ford turned a lap of 179.319 mph Friday, easily beating the 179.307 of Roush Racing teammate Greg Biffle for the third pole of his career.

"It was just one of those laps," Busch said. "It's really been a storybook effort so far in this championship chase."

Johnson came to Homestead — the last race in NASCAR's new 10-man, 10-race playoff-style championship — with considerable momentum. He has won four

of the past five races to come from off the pace and give himself a shot at the title.

But his qualifying effort took away some of the steam he had built up. While the other contenders eventually qualified among the top 16, Johnson went out early and had a disastrous lap of 175.029.

As driver after driver went around the track, Johnson watched his starting position drop lower and lower until it reached 39th in a field of 43. It's the worst qualifying effort of his three-year Cup career.

Johnson didn't wait around to see the final result. His team put a cover on his car and he hurried

out of the garage.

"The car was really, really loose," was the only thing he said before walking quickly to his team's hauler.

Four-time series champion Gordon, three points behind Hendrick Motorsports' teammate Johnson and 21 shy of Busch, will start fifth Sunday. Earnhardt, fourth in the standings and 72 points out, will start 16th. Martin, 82 points behind teammate Busch, locked up the 11th spot.

Hamilton takes truck title; Kalne wins again

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — It was a big day for Dodge at Homestead-Miami Speedway, with Bobby Hamilton wrapping up the NASCAR truck series championship Friday and Kasey Kalne driving to his second straight victory.

"This is huge," Hamilton said as he celebrated with his crew and family. "I really wanted to win it for Dodge because they've done so much for us."

At 47, owner-driver Hamilton became the oldest champion of the Craftsman series and gave Dodge its first NASCAR title since Richard Petty won the stock car championship in 1975.

Kalne, the top rookie in the NASCAR Cup series, became the first driver to win his first two starts in the truck series, adding this victory in a Jim Smith-owned Ram to the one last Saturday at Darlington.

Woods up by 10 in Japan

The Associated Press

MIYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods shot a 5-under 65 Saturday to open up a comfortable 10-stroke lead in the Dunlop Phoenix.

Woods, who went into the third round up by three

ended two of the first three holes and then added three more at the Phoenix Country Club to close in on his first title since February and first win by Japan. He has a 54-hole total of 13-under 197.

"The goal today was to increase the lead if I could," Woods said. "I really wanted to get off to a great start and birdied two of the first three holes. I thought it was important to answer him and I did."

Naomichi Ozaki, Ryken Kawagishi and Sweden's Daniel Chopra are tied in second place at 3-under 207. The \$1.75 million tournament is the richest on the Japan tour.

Woods, winner of eight major titles, lost his No. 1 ranking to Vijay Singh two months ago. He had a 10-hole lead when he was at the Match Play Championship. The last time he won a stroke-play tournament was in October 2003.

Sorenstam maintains lead

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.

—Annika Sorenstam kept pace with a steady charge from Karrie Webb, then pulled away with back-to-back birdies late in the second round for a 4-under 68 that set the 36-hole record in the season-ending ADT Championship.

Sorenstam was at 10-under 134, three shots ahead of Webb, Laura Diaz and Cristie Kerr.

Webb, a two-time winner at the tournament, looked particularly sharp in her round of 36. Diaz had a 68 and will play in the first group Saturday with Sorenstam.

Spanish surge into lead at home in World Cup

SEVILLE, Spain — Spain took the lead in Saturday's third round of the World Cup with Sergio Garcia and Miguel Angel Jimenez combining for an 11-under 61 to pull one shot ahead of England.

Playing before an enthusiastic home crowd on the palm-lined Real Club de Golf de Sevilla, Garcia put Spain into the lead on the 16th with a 5-foot eagle putt — his second eagle of the round. Spain finished 24-under par for three rounds.

The English pair of Luke Donald and Paul Casey, who began the tournament with a five-stroke lead over second-place Austria, faded to a 68 in the day's fourth (better ball) format.

Source: Yankees offer Martinez \$5.5 million deal

From wire reports

NEW YORK — George Steinbrenner can't wait until the games start to exact his revenge against the Boston Red Sox.

Making a swift and bold decision Friday, the New York Yankees' principal owner presented a four-year, \$5.5 million offer to Pedro Martinez, according to a major league source.

Talks have intensified between the sides to the point where Martinez must now seriously consider joining the club he called "my daddy" after a frustrating September defeat.

In one stunning move, Steinbrenner has changed the winter landscape — forcing the Red Sox to make a large counteroffer and possibly prompting the Arizona Diamondbacks to speed up the search of trading Randy Johnson.

Even if the Yanks sign Martinez, Steinbrenner is still determined to add Johnson in a trade involving Javier Vazquez.

Less than a month after the Yankees' stunning AL Championship Series loss to Boston, the anger inside Steinbrenner — who had been virtually silent in public since the Yankees' final out — has just begun to bubble.

The Boss' shocking move on Pedro was made independently



of the Yankees' Bronx-based front office, with General Manager Brian Cashman and top adviser Gene Michael said to strongly oppose such a deal.

Cashman did not return phone calls Friday, and Martinez's agents did not return a message.

Sources: Expos to be renamed Nationals

WASHINGTON — The Montreal Expos are about to get their new name: the Washington Nationals.

A city official and a baseball official, both speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday that the team will reveal its new name, cap and red-white-and-blue color scheme during a news conference Monday.

The search for a new name began Sept. 29, when Major League Baseball announced it planned to relocate the team for the 2005 season. Initially, the plan was to wait until the team was sold to select the name, but the sale process is expected to take months — and the team needs to start marketing itself in its new home city immediately.

The top contenders were Na-

tionalists, Senators and Grays, with Senators the sentimental favorite. The original American League Senators played in the nation's capital from 1901-60 before moving to Minnesota to become the Twins. The expansion Senators called Washington home from 1961-7 before moving to Texas to become the Rangers. Senators was also the preference of Commissioner Bud Selig, even though the Rangers still hold the rights to the name.

But Mayor Anthony Williams objected, saying the name isn't appropriate, given the District of Columbia's lack of representation in the U.S. Senate.

"We don't have senators here," the mayor said in September.

"Give us two senators, and I'll be happy to call them the Senators."

Angels trade Guillen to Expos

WASHINGTON — After a temper tantrum that led to an eight-game suspension and a course in anger management, Jose Guillen needed a change of scenery.

He'll find it in the nation's capital. The Anaheim Angels traded Guillen to the Washington-bound Expos — the soon-to-be Nationals — on Friday for outfielder Juan Rivera and prospect Maicer Izturis.

"It was the best thing that could happen, taking into consideration the way things ended last season between us," Guillen told The Associated Press from his home in Miami. "I'm excited to be a part of the Expos and part of history, now that we'll play in the U.S. capital."

Guillen was suspended for the final eight games of the regular season and dropped from Anaheim's playoff roster after he threw a tantrum in the dugout and clubhouse when he was removed for a pinch-runner on Sept. 25. In a grievance settlement, he agreed to allow the Angels to withhold two days' pay.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said, "Jose would have been welcome back."

White Sox, RHP Garland avoid arbitration

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox avoided arbitration with right-hander Jon Garland on Friday, agreeing to a \$3.4 million, one-year contract.

Garland, who got a \$1.1 million raise, was 12-11 with a 4.89 ERA last season, the first winning record of his career. He had a career-high 113 strikeouts, pitched 200 innings for the first time and won 12 games for the third straight season.

Garland, 46-51 with a 4.68 ERA in four-plus seasons with the White Sox.

Brawl: Fight prompts police investigation

BRAWL, FROM BACK PAGE

One of the half-dozen people treated for injuries at The Palace was taken to a hospital by ambulance and another sought treatment, police said.

"At this time, we don't have any indication of major injuries, Mynsberge said.

Detroit's Larry Brown, who started coaching in 1972 after his playing career ended, said it was the ugliest thing he had seen as a coach or player.

Joe Dumars, the Pistons' president of basketball operations, added, "There's no place in the game for what went on with this incident. It was just an ugly scene."

After several minutes of players fighting with fans in the stands, a chair, beer, ice and popcorn were thrown at the Pacers as they made their way to the locker room.

The melee started when Detroit's Ben Wallace went in for a layup and was fouled hard by Artest from behind, and escalated when Artest stormed into the

stands after being hit by a full cup. After being fouled, Wallace wheeled around and pushed Artest in the face.

The benches emptied and punches were thrown.

As the players continued showing each other near center court and coaches tried to restore order, Artest sprawled out on his back on the scorer's table, looking relaxed.

Just when it appeared tempers died down, Artest was struck by a cup thrown from the stands and jumped up and charged into the stands, throwing punches as he climbed over seats.

"He was on top of me, pummeling me," fan Mike Ryan of Clarkston said. "He asked me, 'Did you do it?' I said, 'No, man. No!'"

Jason joined Artest in the melee and threw punches at fans, who punched back at the players.

Security personnel and ushers tried to break it up. Former Pistons player Rick Mahorn, who was seated courtside as a Detroit radio analyst, tried to stop the

brawl in the stands. Detroit's Rasheed Wallace and Indiana's David Harrison were also in or near the stands trying to break up the fights.

Later, a man in a Pistons jersey approached Artest on the court, shouting at him. Artest punched him in the face, knocking him to the floor. Teammate Jermaine O'Neal stepped in and punched another man who joined the scum.

Players from both teams left the arena without comment.

Quentin Richardson of the Phoenix Suns watched the brawl on TV.

"I have never seen a fight like that in a game since I was in high school," he said. "Man, there are going to be some lawsuits. You don't think some of those fans aren't going to want some NBA money?"

Police prevented reporters from crossing the loading dock to get to Indiana's locker room or the area where the Pacers' bus was located.

"I'm just embarrassed for our league and disappointed for our young people to see that," Brown said.

Blame: Nothing can justify leaving court to attack fans

BLAME, FROM BACK PAGE

There were no arrests Friday night, but that doesn't mean there won't be arrests down the road.

This one will not end for a long time.

How did American sports come to this? How did a fairly routine NBA altercation turn into the kind of riot we often associate with minor league hockey?

And where was the security at The Palace of Auburn Hills when fans tossed beer and cups at Artest? Where were they when Pacers players, led by Artest and Jackson, charged into the stands and engaged those clowns in a barnstorm brawl? Where were they when Pacers players and coaches were coming off the court — the game was smartly canceled after the riot — and fans threw even more cups and chairs on their heads, endangering livelihoods, endangering lives?

Before NBA Commissioner David Stern does anything else, he has to hold the Pistons' organization accountable for the way things got out of hand.

The foul that started it all was nothing flagrant, nothing terribly violent. Shoot, by Artest's standards, the late foul on Ben Wallace was love tap.

The Pistons center was guilty of a terrible overreaction, and he should get a serious fine and suspension. That said, he can't be blamed for what happened next.

As both teams stood around, posturing and taunting the way NBA players are wont to do, Artest reclined in an almost comical manner on that same table. On this occasion, he was showing great restraint, resisting any temptation to retaliate against Wallace or join the fray nearby.

He couldn't hold back, though, when debris and beer started flying into his face.

What Artest did next, going into the stands to confront the fan, was human nature. At the same time, though, his actions cannot be condoned in any form or fashion. It doesn't matter how he was provoked. While we might understand what inspired Artest, we can't condone it, and the league won't let it pass.

It may seem unfair that this was started by Wallace and escalated by fans, yet the Pacers will be hit the hardest by the NBA. But how can you argue? They went into the stands. End of story.

The fear now is what happens Dec. 25, Christmas Day, when these two teams meet again, this time in Indianapolis. Maybe, by that time, things will have settled down between the two organizations, but fans, even the highly civilized ones who fill up the fieldhouse, have very long memories.

This can't happen again. Although, we know, somewhere, somehow, it will.

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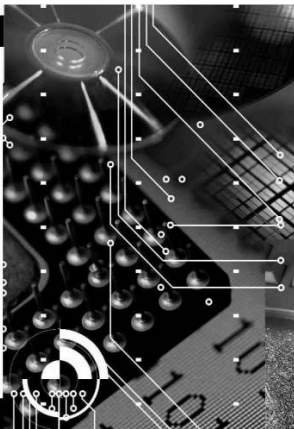


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Santa Clara shocks No. 4 North Carolina

By JANIE MCCALLUEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Roy Williams traveled a long way to get outfitted by an old golfing buddy.

Naves Niesen scored 26 points and Kyle Bailey made three second-half three-pointers as Santa Clara spoiled No. 4 North Carolina's season opener 77-66 Friday night in the Pete Newell Challenge.

The cold-shooting Tar Heels lost their opener for only the fifth time since 1933, and will certainly lose their highest preseason ranking in seven years.

Williams blamed himself for not having his team better prepared, but also gave credit to his longtime friend, Santa Clara coach Dick Davey.

"I've got to do a heck of a lot better job and do the little things we've talked about all along," Williams said. "We are extremely disappointed. Ticked off is what I am, but I'm ticked off at myself not at the kids."

Williams invited Davey golfing at fancy Cypress Point earlier in the week — and when their teams met on the basketball court, Santa Clara always seemed closer to the hole.

Niesen and 6-foot-2 dynamo Doron Perkins scored inside consistently, while the Broncos got most of the big rebounds. Santa Clara mostly kept North Carolina on the perimeter, where the Heels' poor shoot-



Santa Clara's Doron Perkins (30) celebrates after his team's 77-66 victory over No. 4 North Carolina on Friday night.

ing doomed them in their first game on the West Coast in four years.

Niesen forced himself to ignore the name on North Carolina's baby blue uniforms and just play.

"I don't think I'm very good, I just play really hard," said Niesen, who made 10 of his 14 shots. "I'm not afraid of anyone, man."

Sean May had 19 points and nine rebounds in the first meeting between these schools since Michael Jordan's playing days. Rashad McCants scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half before fouling out in the final minute.

When it ended, Niesen threw the ball up high enough to hit the overhead scoreboard, then walked in front of the fans, holding out his jersey while the crowd cheered.

"It feels like they're more athletic at every position," said Perkins, who added 11 points and nine rebounds. "We came out with energy we've never come with before."

North Carolina shot 36.5 percent and went 14-for-24 from the free throw line — not exactly the kind of basketball expected from a top-five team.

Bailey finished with 20 points for Santa Clara (3-1), which already played three games in the NABC Classic last week, including a 34-point loss to host New Mexico.

North Carolina never looked comfortable on either end of the floor, probably in part because the Heels were without suspended point guard Raymond Felton.

"We didn't get a real feel of the game," said freshman Quentin Thomas, a former prep star in Oakland who earned the start in place of Felton. "Our shots weren't falling, but at the same time we couldn't turn it up on defense."

They began a stretch of seven games in 16 days with an ugly offensive mind and didn't match the energy of the Broncos, who beat a top-five team for only the third time in Davey's 13-year tenure.

But he was more interested in scouting

the Stanford-San Francisco game afterward than celebrating one big win.

"Obviously, I'm excited about the victory, but I think you have to keep things in perspective," Davey said. "It's only one game."

Bailey made back-to-back three-pointers to give the Broncos a 45-32 lead with 15:16 remaining, and Santa Clara kept making big baskets down the stretch to avoid any drama late.

Williams went with Thomas over Melvin Scott and Wes Miller to replace Felton, who served a one-game suspension for playing in a non-certified summer league. Thomas had his prep uniform retired at halftime.

North Carolina returns all five starters from a team that went 19-11 last season, and Williams wants the Heels to be better defensively this season. But after this poor offensive performance he'll certainly have them working even harder on their shooting, too.

The Tar Heels had won 68 of their previous 73 season openers and played Santa Clara for only the third time. North Carolina won the last meeting in 1982, led by Jordan's 22 points in the 79-56 victory.

Even when they weren't under pressure, the taller and bigger Tar Heels couldn't knock down open shots — reserve C.J. Hooker missed an open dunk with 20 seconds left. They were routinely beaten to loose balls.

No.1 Jayhawks escape upset

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Vermont was not worried about playing the nation's No. 1 team on the road. For much of the night, it was the capacity crowd at Allen Fieldhouse that seemed nervous.

The Catamounts gave top-ranked Kansas and their fans a big scare Friday night before the Jayhawks finally pulled away in the final minutes for a 68-61 victory.

Vermont, which returns four starters from last year's 22-9 team, held a four-point lead with less than 5 minutes left.

"Our guys did not seem intimidated," Vermont coach Tom Brennan said. "There were a couple of close calls at the end that did not go our way. But we were still in the game with two minutes left."

Wayne Simien had 25 points and 14 rebounds and scored the last four points of a 9-2 game-ending run.

"Wayne Simien is a horse," Kansas guard Keith Langford said. "We just got on his back and ride."

Simien had a double-double at halftime, which ended with Kansas holding a tenuous three-point lead.

"Who scheduled that one?" said Simien with a laugh. "The first game is supposed to ease into the season, man. But we knew they were going to come out and play us tough."

The Jayhawks, who haven't started a season No. 1 since Will Chamberlain was in school, trailed the underdog Catamounts 58-54 when Taylor Coppernath hit a short jumper with 4:24 left.

Christian Moody, a walk-on starter, then made two free throws

Men's AP Top 25

to give Kansas a 61-59 lead with 2:49 left and start a 9-2 run that extinguished Vermont's bid for what would have been one of the great upsets in school history.

No. 3 Georgia Tech 74, Alabama St. 37: At Atlanta, Jarrett Jack scored 20 points and Georgia Tech held Alabama State scoreless for more than nine minutes to begin the game.

The Hornets, also playing their season opener, were trailing 2-0 before the tipoff. Tyrece Legett was given a technical for dunking during pregame warmups, and Jack hit two free throws before the game began.

No. 5 Syracuse 77, No. 24 Memphis 62: At New York, Hakim Warrick had 25 points and Gerry McNamara added 21 to help Syracuse win the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic championship.

Rodney Carney, coming off a career-high 33 points in the semifinals, had 25 points for Memphis (3-1).

No. 6 Illinois 87, Delaware St. 67: At Champaign, Ill., De Brown scored 17 points to help Illinois win its season opener.

No. 7 Oklahoma St. 91, Northwestern St. 53: John Lucas scored 24 points and Joey Graham added 18, leading host Oklahoma State to a victory in its season opener.

Graham scored 15 first-half points, and Lucas had 16 after the break for the Cowboys. Ivan McFarlin added 14 points for Oklahoma State.

No. 12 Mississippi St. 67,

Saint Mary's 54: At New York, Lawrence Roberts scored 20 points to lead Mississippi State to a third-place finish in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic tournament.

Despite playing with a facemask because of a broken nose, Roberts finished 6-for-18 from the field and had seven rebounds.

No. 13 Michigan St. 104, Florida A&M 72: Kelvin Torbert scored 21 points and helped Michigan State win its season opener at home. Maurice Ager added 20 points for the Spartans.

No. 15 Maryland 93, Jackson St. 57: At College Park, Md., Travis Garrison scored a career-high 21 points, and Maryland pulled away after halftime.

Ekene Ibekwe had a career-high 17 points and eight rebounds for the Terrapins.

No. 16 Texas 95, Texas St. 63: P.J. Tucker scored 18 points to lead the Longhorns in their season opener at home. Brad Buckman and Kenton Paulino each scored 13 for the Longhorns.

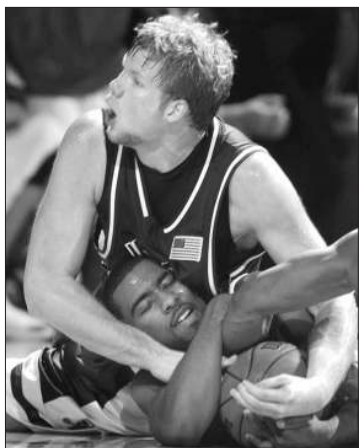
No. 18 Alabama 97, Western Carolina 66: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 24 points and the Crimson Tide was never tested after the first five minutes.

Point guard Ronald Steele became only the third freshman to start a season opener for the Crimson Tide. He scored three points.

No. 19 North Carolina St. 100, East Carolina 66: At Raleigh, N.C., Tony Bethel scored 22 points to lead North Carolina State in the championship game of the BCA Invitational.

The Wolfpack (3-0) cruised through the three games.

No. 20 Notre Dame 66, Har-



Vernont forward Taylor Coppernath, top, ties up Kansas guard Keith Langford during the second half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan.

vard 59: Chris Quinn scored 20 points and Chris Thomas added 17 as host Notre Dame won despite blowing an 18-point lead.

Brian Cusworth led Harvard with 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Crimson.

No. 22 Washington 89, Seattle Pacific 71: At Seattle, Brandon Roy scored 23 points and Nate Robinson added 22 to lead Washington in its season opener.

Freshman Joel Smith scored 15

points, while Mike Jensen had 14 points for Washington.

No. 23 Florida 81, Jacksonville 59: At Jacksonville, Fla., Anthony Robinson scored 19 points and David Lee added 15 points.

No. 25 Gonzaga 98, Portland St. 80: At Spokane, Wash., Ronny Turiaf scored a career-high 33 points and Gonzaga shot 65 percent in its season opener.

Blake Walker led Portland State with 22 points.

Sonics hot, but not yet one of league's 'buzz' teams

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

Nearly everybody's preseason favorite to come out of the West was San Antonio, and the Spurs are doing just fine.

Lots of folks listed the Cleveland Cavaliers and Orlando Magic as sleeper teams, and they're making those prognosticators look like sages.

But just about nobody gave the Seattle SuperSonics a shot at doing much of anything, and they are proving all their doubters wrong.

It wasn't Tim Duncan, Shaquille O'Neal or Kobe Bryant sitting atop the NBA standings as the weekend began, it was the team in green from the Pacific Northwest with a starting lineup that includes Jerome James, Luke Ridnour and Reggie Evans.

"If we're not the buzz team, so be it," guard Antonio Daniels said. "We like having low expectations. We like people overlooking us."

The Sonics built the league's best record by bouncing back from an embarrassing opening-night loss to the Clippers with eight consecutive victories leading into their matchup Friday night with the Toronto Raptors.

They've been getting it done with the long ball, leading the league in three-pointers attempt-



ed and made, along with three-point accuracy.

"It's ugly," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "They are an offensive machine. What's nice when you see them is that they really seem to enjoy playing with each other."

The sharpest of their sharpshooters has been Ray Allen, whose 7-for-12 shooting from behind the arc in a game earlier this week against Philadelphia actually lowered his three-point percentage a shade below 60 percent for the season.

Only Sacramento's Peja Stojakovic and Philadelphia's Kyle Korver had attempted more threes than Allen, but Korver was 27-for-62 and Stojakovic was 18-for-56.

Allen had made 31 to lead the Sonics, while Rashard Lewis had 19 and Vladimir Radmanovic 17.

"It's definitely an interesting style," Allen said of the Sonics. "If you watch basketball, we're not slow or methodical or boring basketball."

Still, Allen doesn't expect the Sonics to make much of a blip on the national radar anytime soon. In his mind, "buzz teams" can

only build a true buzz by winning in the postseason — something the Sonics haven't done since 1998.

"Our TV schedule, we don't have a large quantity of TV games, so a lot of people won't get to see us — especially on the East Coast. Most people are sleeping on this side of the country when we play," Allen said prior to the Sonics' victory at New Jersey on Wednesday night.

Currently on a 10-day, six-game road trip, Seattle was to follow its game against Toronto with trips to Boston, Minnesota and Memphis. The reward for making such a long haul will be a fairly easy month of December with just one road trip — a back-to-back set against Dallas and San Antonio — in the 3½ weeks before Christmas.

Silas returns: Paul Silas took a long look around the Charlotte Coliseum, taking in all the familiar sights, sounds and faces.

"Well, this place ain't changed too much, has it?" he asked.

No, coach, it hasn't. The only thing that has changed is Silas, who returned to his former NBA city Thursday night in a far better place than he was when he left it at the end of the 2001-02 season.

Silas is thrilled to be out of the Hornets organization, where his final year as coach of the team in Charlotte was agonizing and his only year as coach of the team in New Orleans wasn't much better. Now with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who played the expansion Charlotte Bobcats on Thursday night, Silas said he couldn't be happier.

"You know, it's still incumbent

upon me to win, but I am with people now who understand how to do that. I am not under a microscope, I am not begging for certain things like a backup point guard," he said.

The decision by owners George Shinn and Ray Woodbridge to move the team to New Orleans made life miserable during the 2001-02 campaign, when the Hornets played on despite their upcoming relocation. Through it all, Silas said he knew Woodbridge was campaigning to out him.

"He came to see me one night before a game and told me 'If you don't win tonight, you're fired,'" Silas said.

Happy in Cleveland and armed with a player of LeBron James' caliber, he's eyeing a goal he never dreamed of with the Hornets.

"I've still got to win me a championship," Silas said.

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Purdue's Stubblefield breaks NCAA receptions mark

The Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield broke the NCAA record for career receptions during the first quarter Saturday during Indiana.

Stubblefield entered the game needing six receptions to pass Louisville's Arnold Jackson for the career record. Jackson caught 300 passes from 1997-00.

It didn't take Stubblefield long to break the mark. He caught two passes on each of the Boilermakers'



ers' first three drives, including a 23-yard touchdown reception for his 13th of the season.

The record-breaker came on a juggling 6-yard catch with 1:43 left in the first quarter. That gave Stubblefield 301 receptions since he started playing for the Boilermakers in 2001.

His 13th TD reception also tied

Vinny Sutherland and John Stanford for Purdue's season record.

BALCO chief alleges feds fabricating steroid case

SAN FRANCISCO — The founder of the company at the center of an investigation into illegal steroids alleges the government fabricated statements suggesting he provided the substance to top athletes, including Barry Bonds, according to federal court

documents filed Friday.

Victor Conte, head of Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, disputed claims by an IRS agent that he had acknowledged providing steroids to the athletes.

"I very clearly told all four of the law enforcement officers present that I would not cooperate with them in any way, regarding any of the physicians, coaches or athletes involved with BALCO Laboratories," Conte said in the documents, which dispute state-

ments the government said Conte made when agents raided his Burlingame nutritional supplement business in September 2003.

In court papers last month, IRS agent Jeff Novak said, "Conte openly acknowledged giving testosterone-base cream, itself a steroid, to numerous professional athletes and specifically identified the names of the specific athletes to whom he had given drugs."

An IRS memo about that conversation listed baseball players Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, in addition to track standouts Marion Jones, Tim Montgomery and others.

Those athletes and others testified before a federal grand jury that eventually led to the indictment of Conte, Bonds, trainer Greg Anderson, BALCO vice president James Valente and track coach Remi Korchemmy.

Charges include distributing steroids, including the previously undetectable THG, possession of human growth hormone, misbranding drugs with intent to defraud and money laundering. All have pleaded not guilty.

A hearing is set for Dec. 1 in San Francisco in which the four men are seeking to have the charges dismissed. They allege they were subjected to illegal searches and coerced by federal investigators.

No trial date has been set. Prosecutors did not return calls seeking comment.

Nets guard Kidd hopes to practice next month

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd's recovery from surgery on his left knee is on schedule and the All-Star point guard hopes to practice next month with the struggling New Jersey Nets.

Kidd was re-evaluated Friday by the team's medical staff and Dr. David Altchek, who performed surgery on the knee on July 1.

Kidd will continue his rehabilitation and light contact work, with the goal of returning to practice in December, the team said. There is no timetable for his return to the active roster.

Pacers' Bender out six weeks with knee injury

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Indiana Pacers forward Jonathan Bender is expected to be out six weeks with an injured left knee.

He played 11 minutes in Wednesday night's victory over the Atlanta Hawks, the first time he'd been on the court since the season opener against Cleveland.

The 7-foot, 235-pound forward has averaged 5.7 points and 2.2 rebounds during his first five seasons.

Chivas makes Torres first choice in MLS expansion draft

NEW YORK — Los Angeles-based CD Chivas USA made Los Angeles Galaxy forward Arturo Torres the first player chosen Friday in the Major League Soccer Expansion Draft.

Real Salt Lake, the other expansion club that will begin play next year, took Jamaican midfielder Andy Williams from the Chicago Fire with the first of its 10 choices, making the Utah club his sixth team since joining the MLS in 1998.

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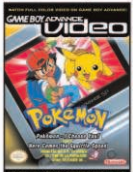
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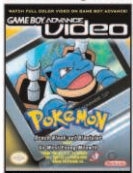
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SPORTS



Yankees reportedly offer
Pedro Martinez four-year,
\$50 million deal, Page 42

Throwdown in Motown

Pacers brawl with fans in Detroit stands; 4 suspended indefinitely

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Players and fans exchanged punches in the stands near the end of a Pacers-Pistons game in one of the worst brawls in NBA history. The mayhem left several people injured and prompted a police investigation.

Indiana's Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson charged into the crowd and fought with fans in the final minute of Friday night's game, forcing an early end to the Pacers' 97-82 victory.

"I felt like I was fighting for my life out there," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "I'm sorry the game had to end this way."

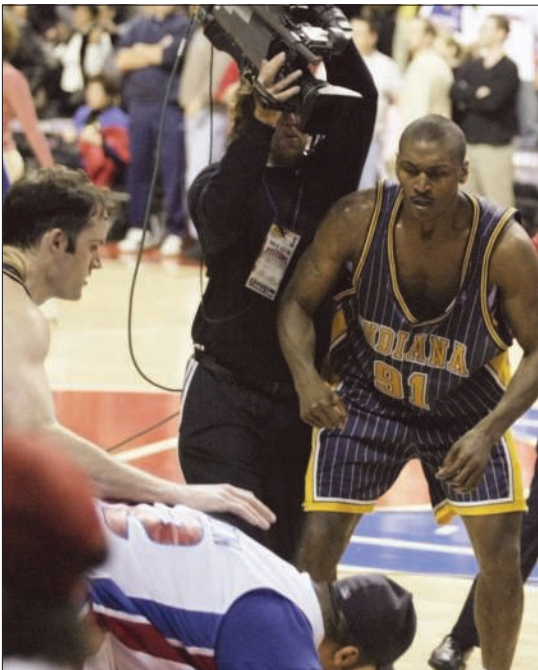
Officials stopped the game with 45.9 seconds remaining after pushing and shoving between the teams spilled into the stands once fans started throwing things at the players near the scorer's table.

The NBA suspended the Pacers' Artest, Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, and Ben Wallace of Detroit on Saturday.

The suspensions were indefinite, and the league was still investigating the melee, which Commissioner David Stern called "shocking, repulsive and inexcusable — a humiliation for everyone associated with the NBA."

The league issued a statement saying it was reviewing rules and security procedures "so that fans can continue to attend our games unthreatened by events such as the ones that occurred last night."

About three hours following the startling finish, Auburn Hills police walked off of a television



DETROIT FREE PRESS/ART

Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest is shown after knocking down a fan with a punch after the fan came on the court during an altercation in the last minute of their game with the Pistons in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Friday.

trailer with videotapes gathered from media outlets. Officers interviewed witnesses at the arena in suburban Detroit and planned to talk to the players involved.

"We'll put it all together, take it to the Oakland County Prosecutors Office and have them review it and they'll decide if there are any charges," Auburn Hills Deputy

Chief Jim Mynsberge said.

"I hope we can do it before Thanksgiving."

SEE BRAWL ON PAGE 43

Plenty of fault by everyone in violent ending

BY BOB KRAVITZ
The Indianapolis Star

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — It was, by any measure, one of the most disgraceful moments in the history of the NBA, and one of the worst, and most frightening, in the history of professional sports in America.

The beer will be mopped up and the debris will be swept away soon enough, but the echoes from Friday night's horrible scene at the end of the Pacers-Pistons game will sound for many weeks to come.

The question now is this: How will the NBA clean up this terrible mess? How does the league find fairness in a situation where nearly everybody acted wrongly and, in some cases, criminally? Even without further review, we know these things will happen:

■ Detroit's Ben Wallace, whose overreaction to Ron Artest's foul started the whole mess, will get suspended, probably for five games.

■ Artest, who showed admirable restraint during the early moments of the fiasco, will be hit the hardest for retaliating and running into the stands to confront the fans. Even after he escaped the stands, he cold-cocked a Pistons fan who had come onto the floor. We're talking 10 games, minimum.

■ Stephen Jackson, who came to Artest's aid and was clearly the most supportive and aggressive of Artest's teammates, also will be looking at five to 10 games.

And there will be more.

A lot more.

From the Pacers and Pistons, from the NBA and from lawyers representing some of the fans who were caught up in the madness.

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